Estrada crony Dichaves, family flee to HK

STORY ON PAGE A3

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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Military defection: The inside story

BY CARLITO PABLO

FROM a safehouse at the Corinthian Gardens in Quezon City, Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado and Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff Gen. Angelo Reyes placed their last call to President Estrada at about 2:30 p.m. yesterday.

MILITARY/ A17

People Power II: History repeats itself

HISTORY repeated itself yesterday, with people power again proving to be the force to reckon with.

Indignation rallies on Edsa and other areas nationwide were instantly transformed into jubilation rallies as news reached protesters that top officials had withdrawn support from President Estrada.

PEOPLE/ A18

TIME'S UP FOR ERAP

"WHAT MIRACLES ARE HAPPENING TO US," Cory Aquino beams as AFP chief Gen. Angelo Reyes and former Defense Secretary Mercado are welcomed by former President Fidel Ramos (front row) and the Edsa multitudes.

JESS YUSON

Emissaries negotiating for President's exit

BY DONNA S. CUETO, CATHY C. YAMSUAN AND ANDREA T. ECHAVEZ

IN A MOVE reminiscent of the dictator Ferdinand Marcos 15 years ago, President Estrada last night called for a snap presidential election to coincide with the regular elections on May 14.

Mr. Estrada asked Congress to call for the snap election as he refused calls for his immediate resignation.

But the opposition rejected his proposal and instead gave him until 6 a.m. today to step down.

Sen. Raul Roco, who announced the deadline given to Mr. Estrada, warned that the tens of thousands of people gathered at the Edsa Shrine would march to Mendiola this morning should Mr. Estrada refuse to resign.

Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo may take the oath as President even if he doesn't resign, her spokesperson Renato Corona said.

At past 10 last night, the opposition sent three emissaries to Malacañang to confer with Executive Secretary Edgardo Angara to discuss the transfer of power.

The emissaries were former Defense Secretary Renato de Villa, former Sen. Alberto Romulo and former Rep. Hernando Perez.

"He (Mr. Estrada) is in no position to demand anything or even to ask for any concession. He has only one option available to him and that is to step down," said Corona.

Roco disclosed that the opposition had agreed that there would be "no reconciliation without justice."

Militant groups like Bayan are demanding that Mr. Estrada be arrested and that he be prevented from leaving the country.

TIME'S/ A6

AFP deals fatal blow to Erap presidency

BY CHRISTINE HERRERA, DAVE VERIDIANO AND JULIET JAVELLANA

THE MILITARY dealt its fatal blow to President Estrada swiftly, without bloodshed.

The Estrada administration collapsed yesterday after military commanders and defense officials withdrew their support for Mr. Estrada and gathered at the Edsa Shrine under a rain of confetti, with thousands of people chanting "*sundalo ng bayan, ngayon ay nanindigan* (soldiers of the people, now take a stand)."

Saying that the President and his family should be allowed to "exit with dignity," Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Angelo Reyes and five other military generals, three police generals and Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado threw their support behind Mr. Estrada's constitutional successor Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

It was what former President Fidel Ramos described as the Edsa Revolt of 1986 "done better."

Reyes' group initially planned to defect today, but decided to make its move a day earlier because of the huge number of ordinary Filipinos who showed up on Edsa to demand the President's ouster, sources from the opposition said.

"President Estrada is a good President. But for the interest of the people, the Filipinos and the

AFP/ A19

Lonely night at the Palace

BY DONNA S. CUETO

LATE Friday night in Malacañang, an embattled Joseph Estrada is inside the Presidential Residence, watched over by his loyal guards.

He is described on television as emotionally distressed and intoxicated.

At 10 p.m., negotiations are being made by phone for the President's immediate resignation.

Elsewhere in the metropolis, Makati Rep. Joker Arroyo said: "It's now between him and his family. It's his loneliness that is compelling him to resign."

A few minutes earlier, an INQUIRER source said: "We are all here—the President, First Lady Loi Ejercito, their children, sisters and

LONELY/ A6

EDWIN BACASMAS

INDIGNATION turns to jubilation: Seated from left are former President Ramos, Vice President Macapagal, General Reyes and former Secretary Mercado. Behind are retired Gen. Fortunato Abat, Lt. Gen. Jose Calimlin, Chavit Singson.

It's over: 11 Cabinet men resign

BY ALCUIN PAPA, CLARISSA S. BATINO AND VOLT CONTRERAS

"IT'S OVER," Education Secretary Andrew Gonzalez said yesterday as he announced his resignation from the Cabinet. "The continuation of the Estrada presidency is no longer viable."

By the end of the day, at least 11 secretaries had left their posts, leaving a politically crippled President Estrada with only half a Cabinet.

Gonzalez said he tried to contact the President but couldn't get through. "It was like a fortress there," he said.

Tourism Secretary Gemma Cruz-Araneta, who resigned yesterday afternoon, also said she tried to call Mr. Estrada to inform him of her decision to quit, but was told that he could not come to the phone.

By 10 p.m, other Cabinet members who had resigned were Robert Aventajado, presidential assistant for flagship projects; Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado; Alfredo Lim of the interior; National Security Adviser Alexander Aguirre, his deputy retired Gen. Victor Mayo; Felipe Medalla, economic planning secretary; finance's Jose Pardo; agrarian reform's Horacio Morales; Gregorio Vigilar of public works; and Dulce Saguisag of social welfare.

Those who decided to stick with the President were Executive Secretary Edgardo Angara, Health Secretary Alberto Romualdez, acting Press Secretary Mike Toledo, Foreign Secretary Domingo Siazon, Justice Secretary Artemio Tuquero, and Housing Secretary Leonora de Jesus.

In a phone interview with the INQUIRER, Araneta said employees at the tourism department left their offices yesterday morning, gathered

IT'S OVER/ A19

Second FRONT PAGE

POLITICAL NGA ANG KRISIS, HINDI ECONOMIC!

IT'S NOW P47.50 TO $1

Peso makes dramatic rebound

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

MIRRORING the sentiments of the Filipino people, the peso yesterday dramatically bounced back to its pre-crisis level of P47.50 to $1 from a historic low of $54.79 to $1 as the financial markets apparently believed the political crisis would end very soon.

Earlier yesterday, mere rumors of the defection of military forces led by Armed Forces Chief Angelo Reyes sent the peso zooming to P51.50 from a previous level of P54.80 to $1.

Once Reyes and Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado were confirmed to have joined the anti-Estrada protesters at Edsa, the peso soared to P47 to $1 a minute before closing. The last transaction was, however, crossed at P47.50.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the peso's recovery only showed the currency's problems were political, and not economic.

"The quoted spreads are wide because of extreme nervousness. The foreign market is staying out and these rates are completely locally driven," he said.

He said, the peso's strong rebound was very much attuned to the P47-P49 to $1 average for the year that had been set by the country's economic managers.

"I told you it would go back to these levels minus the political crisis," he said.

Traders pointed to the defection of military and police forces as the main trigger for the peso's strong recovery.

"The defection was the main reason and it eclipsed the statement of Mr. Estrada on TV that he had asked his lawyers to open the second envelope," said a trader from a foreign bank.

News that impeached President Estrada had called for snap elections could bring back the peso to the P50-to-$1 level on Monday as one trader pointed out that the peso's aggressive recovery yesterday could prompt a correction on Monday.

"It was a bit overdone and the peso would react to whatever developments unfold during the weekend," said one trader.

A bank treasury officer said the market definitely took as welcome news the statement from Buenaventura that he would not resign.

"I cannot resign because I have a duty to preserve the financial markets," said the BSP chief who was a classmate of Mr. Estrada at the Ateneo.

Buenaventura still appealed for calm and sobriety so as not to push the peso back to its erratic and volatile behavior.

To recall, the peso dove to P55.79 to $1 last Wednesday following the decision of 11 senators not to open the second envelope Tuesday night that would help convict Mr. Estrada.

The peso's volatility started in mid-October following the juetengate scandal leading to a low of P51.48 to $1 last year. This level was topped in early January and then last Wednesday.

El Shaddai drops support for Estrada

BY BLANCHE S. RIVERA

THE EIGHT-MILLION strong El Shaddai flock, led by President Estrada's spiritual adviser Mike Velarde, decided yesterday it would no longer hold pro-administration rallies, a decision made before Mr. Estrada last night sought snap elections.

The disclosure was made by Manila Auxiliary Bishop Teodoro Bacani, adviser to Velarde, in a meeting with officials of Catholic schools nationwide.

Bacani said the El Shaddai group, which has staged pro-Estrada rallies to counter the snowballing campaign against the President, will "not be used for pro-Estrada demonstrations" this time.

He revealed that even the El Shaddai leaders were "divided" on the matter of backing the President, who has offered to step down after a new successor is elected in May.

"I always have breakfast with them (leaders), and some actually don't like the President," Bacani told his anti-Estrada audience of around 400 at the Paco Catholic School in Manila. "There is no official El Shaddai line now."

Velarde, Bacani and Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Vidal are among the few Catholic clerics known to be close to the President, who has been harshly criticized by the Church for his leadership, as well as his lifestyle habits.

Erap loyalists end Mendiola campout

BY JEROME ANING
AND GERALD G. LACUARTA

WITH the tearful singing of the National Anthem, Estrada loyalists last night ended their four-day campout at the foot of historic Don Chino Roces (Mendiola) Bridge near Malacañang.

Leaders of the People's Movement Against Poverty, the Katipunan ng Sambayanan and other urban poor groups that were born after the President was impeached packed-up, but not before exhorting the dwindling crowd to continue to support the President.

About 50 of them then queued onstage to address the crowd. Their colleagues, however, were no longer listening because they were busy eating.

Three trucks filled with food in styrofoam containers arrived at around 8 p.m. and the people who were about to leave then decided to stay. The food consisted of rice and chicken, pork chops, beef, meatloaf, and hard-boiled eggs.

That morning, the Estrada supporters went on alert after about 100 students from the University of the East, Adamson University and the Far Eastern University belonging to the League of Filipino Students tried to get near the Roces bridge.

Some media men complained of harassment by the Estrada loyalists who had accused them of biased and negative reporting.

A police official said they confiscated several clubs and ice picks from the pro-Estrada crowd.

Reporters and residents of nearby Claro M. Recto Ave. who were aware of what was happening at the Edsa Shrine and Malacañang suggested the police put up loudspeakers tuned to a radio station so the crowd might learn the truth.

But the highest police official at the scene, Sr. Supt. Marcelino Franco, deputy director of the city police, cautioned against the move, saying it might agitate the crowd who might take matters into their own hands.

"I wanted to turn the volume up so they would know the truth, but they threatened to smash my radio," said a magazine vendor at the corner of Recto and Legarda Streets.

"I'm staying here because at least there is free food," one rallier told the INQUIRER, admitting that he did not care about what was happening to the country.

One speaker wearing a basketball uniform preached to the crowd and blessed them, sprinkling them with mineral water. This led some to question the sanity of some of those onstage.

At 7 p.m. some 200 loyalists who had remained on the bridge got ready to leave after they tearfully sang the National Anthem.

A few die-hard loyalists opted to stay with about a dozen supporters to keep vigil.

The pro-Estrada groups said they will follow whatever the President tells them.

They supported the President's call for snap elections and said the people should let the democratic process determine the fate of the country.

Ronald Lumbao, spokesperson of the People's Movement Against Poverty, exhorted his fellow loyalists to continue "the fight of the poor," immediately after Philippine National Police Director General Panfilo Lacson announced on TV that the police force was withdrawing its support of the President.

Lumbao said the fight would no longer be in the streets but in the snap elections proposed by Mr. Estrada in May.

"Let us prepare for this fight so we can again elect a president who shall protect the interests of the poor as President Estrada has done," Lumbao said in Filipino.

"We are not saying that this is the end," he added, "we are merely taking the fight to a different arena."

In his address to the dissipating loyalists, Lumbao did not inform the crowd that top military, police and Cabinet officials had resigned from the Estrada administration.

He said merely that "a significant chapter in our life as a nation has come."

"I thank you for your defense of the President here at Mendiola," Lumbao said. "We have lost the propaganda war so I urge you to return to your communities to explain our position to the people."

Lumbao urged the followers of Mr. Estrada to prepare for the snap elections to elect a "pro-poor president like Mr. Estrada."

Before Lumbao addressed the crowd, news of Lacson's defection from Estrada's side spread like wildfire, eliciting emotions of despair, bitterness and anger from the ralliers. Dozens milled around a TV monitor set up by a camera crew from GMA-7 as Lacson made his announcement.

"*Wala na, bumitaw na si* Ping," an elderly man said as he shook his head. ("It's over, Ping has resigned.")

By 7 p.m. only about 700 loyalists remained at the foot of the Don Chino Roces bridge.

At 10 p.m. the speakers had not yet finished delivering their spiels.

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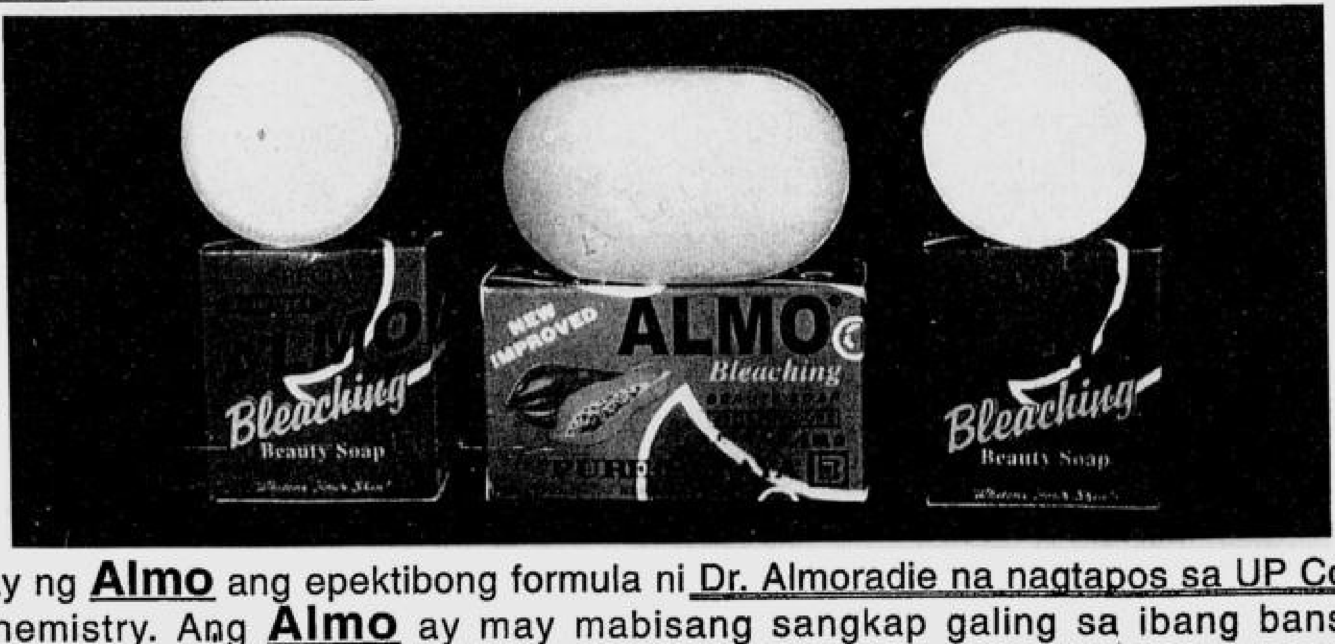

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PHILJA HOLDS SECOND PRE-JUDICATURE PROGRAM

The Academic Council of the Philippine Judicial Academy (PHILJA) announces that it will hold the *Second Pre-Judicature Program* at the 2/F Supreme Court, New Building, Padre Faura Street, Manila, from January 29 – February 9, 2001 *for Phase I*, and on February 26 – *March 9, 2001, for Phase II.* Both Phases must be completed by participants.

Satisfactory completion of and compliance with the requirements of the Pre-Judicature Program is required for appointment to positions in the Judiciary pursuant to Section 10 of Republic Act No. 8557.

Interested parties may contact PHILJA at telephone number 523-6277 or telefax 523-9075 not later than **January 29, 2001.** Parties with pending applications for the Second Pre-Judicature Program are also required to pay the registration fee prior to the deadline set. All applicants are subject to an interview

Dichaves, Mendoza leave town

By TJ Burgonio

THE SHADOWY man behind President Estrada, Jaime Dichaves, skipped town with his family for Hong Kong last night.

Two hours earlier, Estelito Mendoza, President Estrada's top lawyer in the impeachment trial, also left for Hong Kong.

According to the INQUIRER source, Mendoza's trip was booked a day before the withdrawal of military support and resignations of the Cabinet.

"Apparently, he was going there on vacation. It has nothing to do with the resignations because he made the booking a day before these things happened," the source said.

Late last night, two PAL special flights were placed on standby, airport sources said. It was not known where these were bound.

Dichaves, 44, together with his wife, five children and maid, left for Hong Kong aboard Cathay Pacific flight CX 902 bound for Hong Kong, which took off around 8:30 p.m.

Dichaves and his family were caught by reporters checking in at the Cathay Pacific counter at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport around 7 p.m. On seeing the reporters, he hurriedly walked away from the airline counter toward the exit.

When the reporters caught up with him, a smiling Dichaves denied that he was leaving the country. "*Hindi ako aalis. Ihahatid ko lang yung pamilya ko.* (I'm here to see off my family)," he said, before making his way out.

But even after he left, his wife, children and maid remained at the airline counter. It was learned that he sneaked back into the airport in time to board their flight, and cleared with the immigration several minutes after his family did.

An airline staff said that Dichaves and his family did not make prior booking. "They were go-shows (or chance passengers)," he said.

Those who fled with Dichaves were wife Abby, 41; children Aimee Jayne, 6; James Alfred, 11; James Andrew, 13; James Arthur, 15; and James Albert, 16, and their maid, Gina Cabagnason, 30.

Dichaves was not in the immigration hold departure order, according to immigration supervisor Danilo Almeda.

It was Dichaves who came forward to claim that the controversial Jose Velarde account with the Equitable PCIBank was his and not Mr. Estrada's before the sealed documents pertaining to the account were to be opened at the Senate impeachment trial.

His claims were shattered when Clarissa Ocampo, senior vice president of the Equitable PCIBank, later testified that she saw Mr. Estrada affix the signature Jose Velarde to several bank documents, including an investment agreement with the bank covering P500 million loan to the Wellex Group of Companies, a firm owned by another crony, William Gatchalian.

Mendoza flew aboard Philippine Airlines flight PR 310 bound for Hong Kong which took off around 5:45 p.m.

Mendoza made the booking on Wednesday, hours after presiding officer Chief Justice Hilario Davide adjourned the impeachment trial following the resignation of public prosecutors over the Senate division not to open sealed documents pertaining to President Estrada's alleged P3.3 billion account, the sources said.

2 DFA execs demoted over quit-Erap call

By Dona Pazzibugan

TWO ranking foreign department officials were stripped of their duties for calling for the resignation of President Estrada. Foreign Secretary Domingo Siazon, a staunch defender of Mr. Estrada, yesterday issued an order demoting Victoria Bataclan, assistant secretary for personnel and administrative services, and George Reyes, the department's spokesperson and protocol chief.

Bataclan was made a mere executive director of the department's United Nations and International Organizations.

Reyes was put on a "floating status."

Bataclan and Reyes, who both hold the rank of ambassador, were among 30 diplomats, including mid-ranking officials, who left the DFA offices on Wednesday to join the anti-Estrada rally at the EDSA Shrine.

Siazon did not take action against the other officials who joined the rally.

Siazon's order preempted a plan by DFA officials, junior diplomats and rank-and-file employees to issue yesterday a one-page manifesto demanding the President's resignation.

In the draft manifesto, a copy of which was obtained by reporters the other day, the career diplomats and DFA employees said the political situation "has severely damaged the nation's image in the international community, making our task of effectively promoting our interests abroad extremely difficult."

"The President no longer has the moral fitness and authority to lead our nation. We strongly believe that a change in leadership is the only alternative that will . . . allow us to regain our national pride," it said.

In an emergency meeting he called yesterday morning, Siazon told foreign service officers that they would violate their oath of office to uphold the Constitution if they push through with their manifesto.

He said as career diplomats, they should be detached from the political situation.

Siazon said Bataclan was dividing the DFA by supporting the manifesto. He said Reyes could no longer be DFA spokesperson since he was already "biased."

Reyes immediately went on "indefinite leave." He said he expected a retaliatory action but he did not regret his decision to call for the President's resignation.

"This is not a time for detachment but a time for attachment, for taking a stand. But this is part of the consequences if you make a stand that's contradictory to your position as a public official," he said.

Reyes explained that he and the others who went to the EDSA rally that afternoon had filed for leave.

He said he doubted whether others would change their mind from attending the rallies.

Mistresses badger Revilla for 'balato'

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

ON top of voting against the opening of crucial evidence in the now foregone impeachment trial, Sen. Ramon Revilla has been tormented by rumors that he and the 10 other senators who voted "no" were given P200 million each by President Estrada.

"Do you know that this rumor has had repercussions for me?" Revilla said in a telephone interview with the INQUIRER.

"My girlfriends, my mistresses, they're asking me for all sorts of things. I'm so terrified I've found myself swearing at them," Revilla said in Filipino.

Revilla, who has admitted to having sired as many as 81 children from 20 women, said even those women from afar whom he had not seen for a long time have come trooping to see him to ask for a share of the alleged P200 million bonanza.

"Ramon, my car was damaged in a traffic accident. Can you give me a new car?" he quoted one of his women as saying.

He said he turned them away, saying he had nothing to give, and if they wanted, they could look at his account at the RCBC.

Revilla said he told his women that he did not get P200 million as alleged.

"You know me. I'm not so cheap that I would sell my dignity," Revilla said.

Revilla said he was so affected by the P200-million rumor that if he should see Mr. Estrada, he would ask for his share as a joke.

Asked how many children he had, for the record, Revilla said he knew of 81 though he could not recall all their names. A widower, Revilla said he has as many as 20 women.

Sen. Francisco Tatad, who sponsored the motion to vote on whether or not to open the envelope on Tuesday, said he was just as repelled by the rumors of a P200-million reward.

He said he had disposed of his cellular phone because of the nasty and rude messages he had been getting.

"It is so easy to throw dirt on anyone who is not with the anti-Erap forces. I think it's about time we turn the tables on them. What are they getting and from whom, how much are they getting for all the things they have been doing because it's not so easy to mobilize people. Where do they get their money?" Tatad said.

Tatad said Rep. Heherson Alvarez, who had talked about the P200-million payoff, had been the subject of "talks of corruption, which started in the anti-Marcos campaign and the pro-Ninoy movement in the United States but nobody ever charged him openly like this."

Revilla said he felt so guilty about his "no" vote he might consider filing a motion for reconsideration of the 11-10 voting which practically ended the trial and launched the second Edsa people power revolt.

"I felt guilty. It is only now that I realized the gravity of my vote, and because of this there has been this protest rallies," Revilla said.

He said that during the voting on Tuesday, he had intended to vote for opening the envelope but changed his vote at the last minute because House prosecutor Rep. Joker Arroyo had failed to answer his questions.

"My waste basket is full of papers on which my lawyers have explained why my vote should be yes, yes, yes. I was pissed off with Arroyo, that's why I voted no," he said.

Revilla had cited a case in which a Cavite judge had refused to allow the filing of charges of possession of illegal drugs on an individual who had been arrested on the basis of a search warrant for illegal possession of a gun.

"Arroyo's explanation was not good, I was not convinced," he said.

On the other hand, he said defense lawyer Estelito Mendoza and Sen. Francisco Tatad gave explanations that convinced him that "illegally acquired evidence is not admissible in court."

Revilla said he had been talking with his lawyers on the possibility of filing a motion for reconsideration so that the trial could start again. But this appeared to be out of the question with the defection of top military and police officials yesterday.

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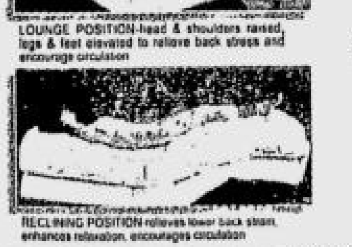

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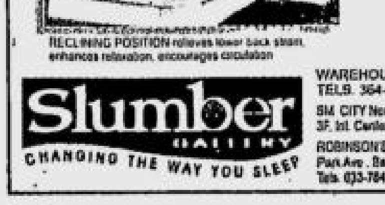

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SENATOR FRANCISCO S. TATAD
SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

Courtesy of THE MORAL FORCE
A National Solidarity Movement

DOJ places Chavit on hold-order list

By TJ Burgonio

EVEN if he wanted to, the whistle blower who started it all would not be able to leave the country at this time.

Three months after accusing President Estrada of pocketing jueteng money and tobacco excise taxes, Ilocos Sur Gov. "Chavit" Singson was ordered placed on the immigration hold departure order (HDO) list.

The request for the issuance of an HDO against Singson and other provincial officials came from the National Bureau of Investigation, which had filed charges of plunder against them in connection with an unaccounted sum of P200 million in tobacco excise taxes.

Immigration Commissioner Rufus Rodriguez issued the order on Thursday upon the instruction of Justice Secretary Artemio Tuquero. Shortly after, the immigration unit at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport was furnished a copy of the order.

Also placed on the list were Ilocos Sur Vice Gov. Deogracias Victor Savellano and 10 other officials of the provincial government, his co-respondents in a plunder case filed with the Department of Justice.

In a report to the DOJ in November 1999, the NBI said it found Singson liable for the malversation of public funds after he admitted diverting P130 million of the tobacco excise taxes to allegedly give to Mr. Estrada.

Singson, through counsel, had questioned the charges, insisting that the NBI did not file a formal complaint but a mere report with the DOJ. He also asked the DOJ to suspend the proceedings in the case until after Mr. Estrada's impeachment trial.

Charged with him were Savellano and 15 other officials.

Senate now willing to open envelope

By Juliet L. Javellana

SENATORS are now willing to allow the opening of bank documents pertaining to the alleged P3.3-billion secret account of President Estrada, Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. yesterday said.

"If the vote were taken on the motion for reconsideration, the vote will get the approval of the impeachment court," Pimentel told reporters.

On Tuesday, senators voted 11-10 to reject the opening of the second envelope submitted by the Equitable PCI Bank to the impeachment court, triggering nationwide protests.

Pimentel admitted that the vote "has caused some institutional damage to the Senate."

Because of the vote, the House prosecution panel withdrew from the trial, suspending it indefinitely.

Pimentel warned that of a "terrible political cost" if the impeachment trial remained suspended.

But he said the motion for reconsideration could help bring back the trial on track.

"I'm trying my best to get it back on track," he said.

He said that the trial could resume next week, but that it really depended on the House.

"Unless the prosecution is ready to be presented in the impeachment court, how do you proceed? We cannot proceed without them. Much of it depends on the House, we have to await their moves," Pimentel said.

He said Sen. Sergio Osmeña III might also be persuaded not to make good his plan to take a permanent leave of absence from the court.

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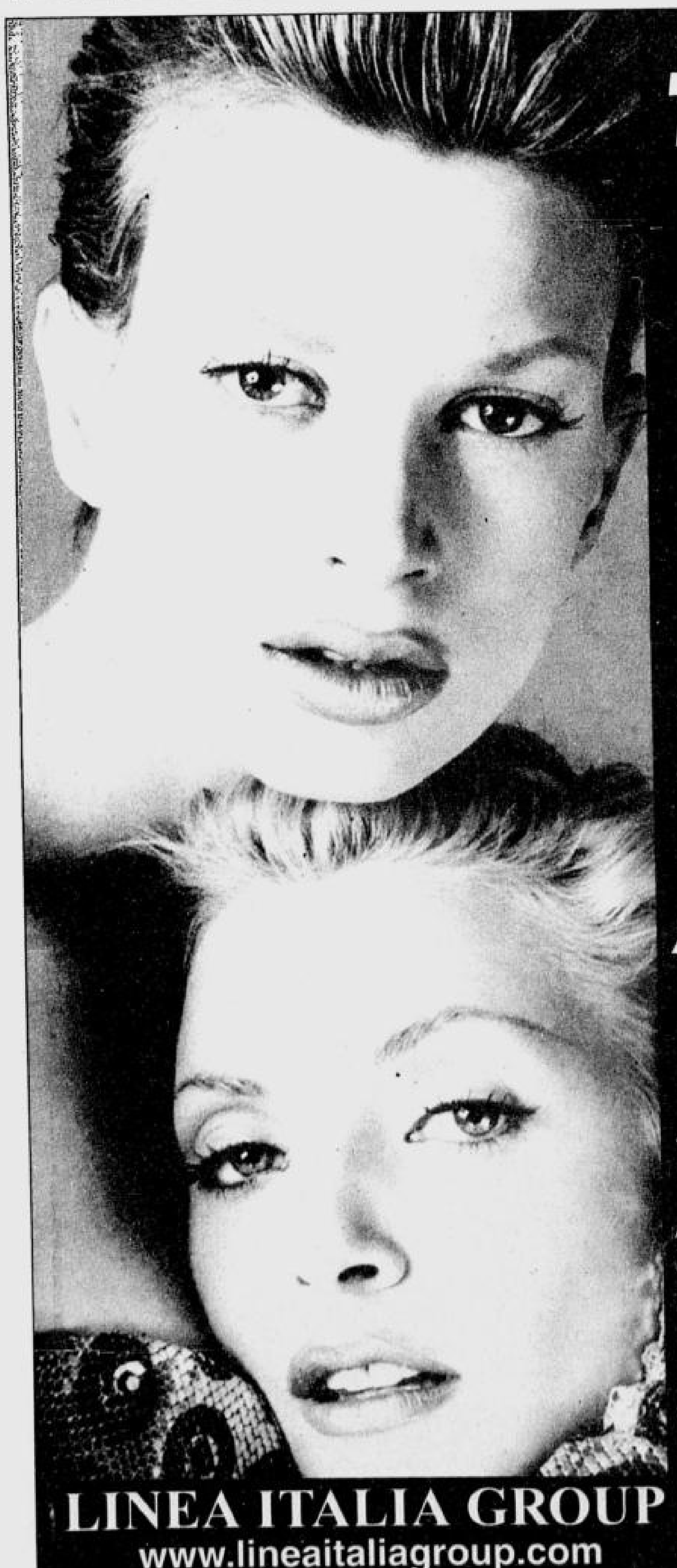

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IBP INVITATION

The Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) cordially invites its members and the public to attend the following event:

WHAT : Memorial service and mass for the untimely demise of Philippine democracy.

WHEN & WHERE: 22 January 2001 at 10:00 o'clock A.M., at IBP Quadrangle, IBP Building, Doña Julia Vargas Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

GUEST SPEAKER: Hon. RAUL S. ROCO
Senator of the Philippines
Former IBP President

The IBP Flag of mourning will be raised. The house prosecutors and the ten senators-judges who sided with the Filipino people have been invited.

Pasig City, 18 January 2001.

INTEGRATED BAR OF THE PHILIPPINES

By:

ARTHUR D. LIM
National President

PISO

MANIFESTO

The country is in deep political turmoil which is affecting every industry including ours. We once took the stand of neutrality with the belief that we should let due process take its course and abide by the principle of the rule of law. However, in light of recent developments, where an apparent manipulation of the rule of law was connived to technically disregard the unraveling of the truth, it has blatantly made a mockery of the very principle we adhere to. With these turn of events, the impeachment process is no longer a viable option. We are deeply concerned with the toll that this political crisis is taking on the economy and the lives of our people. This controversy has directly caused our currency to sharply depreciate and investments to precipitously decline. We foresee that these escalating economic difficulties for the Filipinos will persist as long as this crisis of leadership prevails.

During a specially-convened meeting on January 18, the Officers and Members of the Board of Trustees of the Philippine Internet Service Organization (PISO) unanimously agreed to make known its position to uphold the truth and abide by what is morally right. We want the voice of our industry to be known. For the sake of our country, we believe there is no other other recourse except to ask President Joseph Estrada to resign immediately!

God bless our country! God bless us all!

PHILIPPINE INTERNET SERVICE ORGANIZATION (PISO)

Time's up for Erap

(From page A1)

But Roco said the country had enough laws to try Mr. Estrada in absentia.

Unlike Marcos, Mr. Estrada said on national television at 6:40 p.m. that he would not stand for reelection and that he would relinquish his post to whoever wins the election.

On Nov. 3 1985, amid massive protests calling for his ouster, Marcos announced a snap presidential election in an interview on US television. Marcos ran against Mrs. Corazon Aquino on Feb. 7, 1986.

Best course

"I believe this is the best course under the present circumstances since I still have the support of a significant number of people," Mr. Estrada, looking forlorn and wearing a dark gray jacket over a red polo shirt, said.

"I do not think that the present polarization can be healed by a new leader who will take over without an electoral mandate from our people," he said.

Mr. Estrada's six-year term in office expires in June 2004. His constitutional successor is Macapagal.

Mr. Estrada explained that a special presidential balloting would give his successor the "fresh start and mandate to heal our wounded nation and rebuild our floundering economy."

"I am willing to honor the results of the election," he said.

"Although this is a very painful decision to make, I hope and I pray that our country could unite to strengthen our democracy and give priority to the poor," he said.

The President said he would have wished that the impeachment trial had gone on to allow this constitutional process to take its course.

"But much as I would have wanted this to happen, I know that my mandate to lead our people will remain in question from hereon regardless of the outcome of the trial" he said.

The impeachment trial was suspended indefinitely on Wednesday after the 11-member House prosecution panel resigned to protest the Senate decision not to open a sealed envelope containing damning evidence against the President.

First statement

Hours before he called a snap election, the President read a statement calling for the opening of the controversial second envelope containing documents on his alleged P3-billion account with the Equitable PCI Bank.

However, the resignation of most of his Cabinet members, including top military officials, prompted him and his advisers to draft a second statement which most of the members of the media thought is an announcement of his resignation.

Mr. Estrada said his decision to leave in May came about because of the events that happened yesterday which showed that he could no longer focus on his aim to save the economy and uplift the lives of the poor.

The opposition described as unacceptable the proposal to hold a snap election.

Opposition Sen. Sergio Osmeña III said the President's proposal "is just a delaying tactic. He should resign now to save our country a lot of trouble."

Other opposition leaders said Mr. Estrada's proposal was unconstitutional as Congress was barred from calling fresh polls unless the positions of the President and Vice President were vacant.

Even Sen. Francisco Tatad, an ally of the President, agreed with the opposition's view. Tatad told Mr. Estrada to "do what the people want" and "face history."

Nathaniel Santiago, secretary general of Bayan Muna, said Mr. Estrada's proposal would only prolong the political crisis.

Wrong advice

Francis Pangilinan, convenor of the Kongreso ng Mamamayang Pilipino II, said it was another classic case of Mr. Estrada being given the wrong advice.

"If he were to follow what he suggested, again he will be guilty of culpable violation of the Constitution," Pangilinan said.

Agusan del Sur Rep. Roan Libarios said "the people have already rendered a judgement of conviction. What is left now is the enforcement of the judgement made by the people."

For his part, Leyte Rep. Sergio Apostol said the President's announcement was a diversionary tactic aimed at quelling the people's clamor for his resignation.

"There is no other way for him but out. Even the impeachment process is now useless because its primary objective is to remove the President. With the number of people at Edsa, he is finished. It's only a matter of hours," he said.

Cebuanos and Ilonggos also gave a resounding "No!" to the offer of the President's call for a snap election.

"President Estrada has only one option, which is to resign," said lawyer Gabriel Ingles, the spokesperson of Barug Sugbu, the umbrella group of the anti-Estrada forces in Cebu.

About 20,000 protesters shouted "Booo!" when Ingles explained to the crowd gathered at Cebu City's Fuente Osmeña Park that Mr. Estrada would not resign and instead called for a snap elections.

Ingles declared that the protest action in Cebu would continue until Mr. Estrada resigns, an announcement that prompted the crowd to shout "Erap Resign!"

Iloilo Gov. Arthur Defensor urged more than 15,000 people holding a rally at the Rotary Amphitheater not to leave the area and to continue to demand the resignation of the President after they learned that he wanted a snap election.

Snap resignation

Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo reacted with a loud cheer when he said that instead of the President calling for a snap election, he should instead do a "snap resignation."

Former Cebu Gov. Emilio "Lito" Osmeña described as "trickery" the President's proposal.

He said that if Mr. Estrada refused to step down, Vice President Macapagal could form a "revolutionary government" like what happened in 1986 when Corazon Aquino took power following the Edsa revolution.

In Mindanao, people also rejected Mr. Estrada's proposal.

"The fight goes on. He thought we are idiots. He should accept his fate. The Erap presidency is dead," said Alvin Luque, secretary general of Bayan-Davao City.

Joji Ilagan Bian, chair of the Mindanao Business Council, said Mr. Estrada's proposal was "immoral."

"It's meant to temper people power. Snap election is not what the people want," Bian said. ***With reports from Alcuin Papa, Rocky Nazareno and Armand Nocum in Manila; Nagiel Bañacia, Piedad Gonzalez and Raj Padilla, PDI Visayas Bureau; Jowel F. Canuday, Joselle Badilla and Amy B. Cabusao, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Lonely night at the Palace

(From page A1)

brothers. They were not carried off by the (armored personnel carrier)."

Heavily tinted vehicles are seen leaving the sentry gate, among them a gray Toyota van with bags and other packages inside.

Mercedes Benzes are parked outside the gate. Drivers wait for their *amo* (bosses) whom they refuse to name.

The President's camouflage-clad guards at the sentry gate screen incoming vehicles. Drivers roll down their tinted windows a bit and make some kind of a signal to mean that the passenger is an expected guest.

Before this, a car entered, carrying the "things" of the President's eldest daughter, Jackie Ejercito-Lopez.

Almost alone

Gone are the political leaders and the Cabinet men who usually surround the President. The only ones left are very close friends, low-key, who are apparently prepared to go down with him.

In the afternoon, Health Secretary Alberto Romualdez Jr. enters the sentry gate on his vehicle, saying he is to receive instructions. Public Works Secretary Gregorio Vigilar follows soon after, as does North Cotabato Rep. Anthony Dequiña, who says, "The game is not yet over."

A few minutes later, Philippine National Police Director General Panfilo Lacson leaves the Palace hurriedly aboard a black car.

"I will go to Camp Crame" is all he says through a partly opened car window. Later, he is seen on television announcing his dissociation from Mr. Estrada.

Fast clip

After the President's first announcement, things happened at a fast clip.

Mr. Estrada and his close advisers realized that the damage could not be contained anymore.

Presidential Security Group commander Maj. Lito Tabangcura said he and his group would make sure that Malacañang would not be vandalized.

The PSG, composed of about 300 guards, has the duty to protect the President and will stay on to do this duty at all cost, Tabangcura said, adding:

"The Constitution put the President in power. It's also the Constitution that will remove him," he said.

Tabangcura talked of a new breed of soldiers, all professionals, changed by what happened at Edsa in 1986.

They respect whatever will be the decision of the President, he said.

Four Simba-type APCs thundered into Malacañang at around 8:30 p.m.

After getting past the sentry gate, they went to the Presidential Residence where Mr. Estrada and his family were having dinner. Manila Mayor Lito Atienza was also inside.

Later, Press Undersecretary Ike Gutierrez left hurriedly, saying he did not think the President would resign.

Atienza also came out.

The APCs, painted black and white, emerged after about 10 minutes, with people inside. It was not known who they were those who were the additional passengers of the vehicles.

The PSG said the APCs were part of the Palace's defense.

Briefing

Press Undersecretary Mike Toledo held a briefing at around 9 p.m.

While he was answering questions, the van of Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile entered the sentry gate and went toward the Presidential Residence.

Toledo denied that the President was seeking asylum from the US government.

"There is no talk of an asylum. There is no arrangement for an asylum," he said.

As soon as he was done, Toledo dashed into his waiting vehicle and sped off.

A source who spoke on condition of anonymity said the President was deep in meetings with his Cabinet men, discussing options left for him.

The supposed options included holding a snap presidential election, going on leave and turning the reins of government to Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

The source said Mr. Estrada was now resigned to the fact that he had become a "lame duck President."

"But a lame duck President is better than a resigned or dead President," he was supposed to have said.

Arroyo said the "unconstitutional" call for a snap election was "a giveaway that the President is a very lonely man, and that he is no longer getting correct advice." ***With reports from Armand N. Nocum and Volt Contreras***

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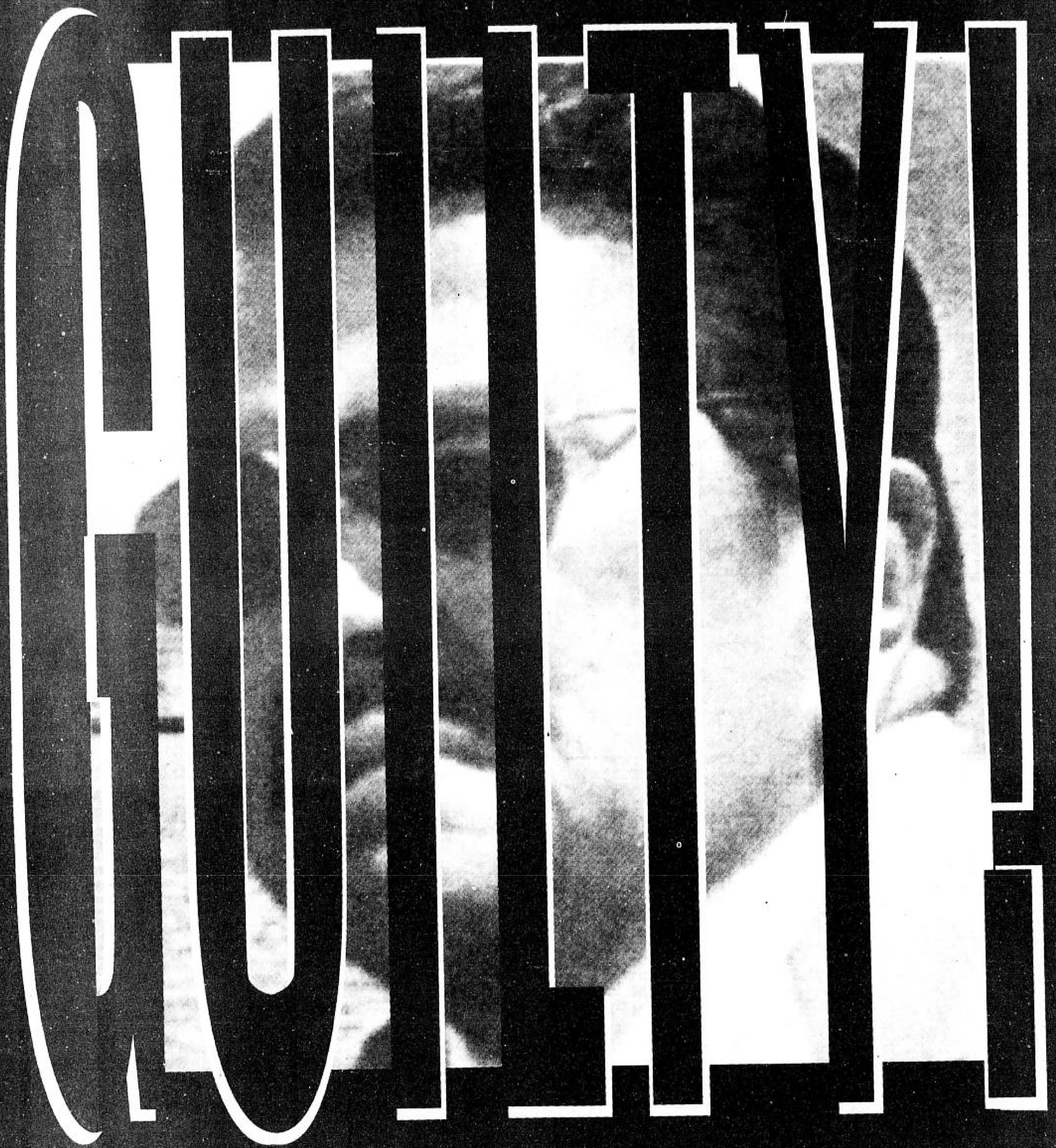

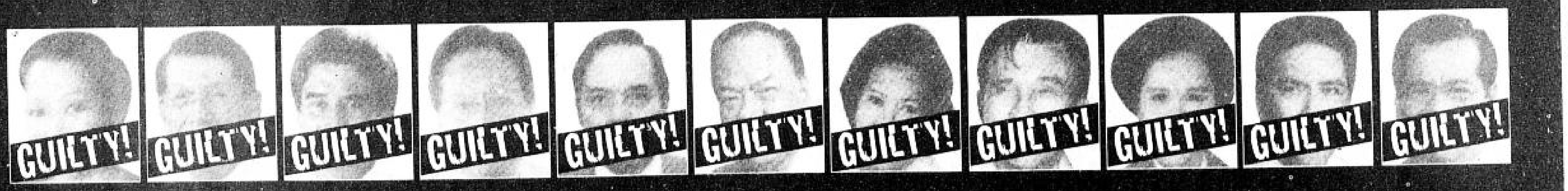
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GUILTY ang 11 *SENADOR* na kasabwat ng isang *MAGNANAKAW.*
GUILTY ang mga *LINTA* na patuloy sa *PAGSIPSIP* sa *MANDURUGAS.*
GUILTY ang mga ginagalang na *KALIHIM* ng Gabinete na *NAGPAPAHIRAM* ng kredibilidad sa pagsulong ng *HUWAD NA LIDERATO.*

Sa aming mga puso, bumaba na ang hatol. *GUILTY*!

Sumali sa mga rally araw-araw hanggang bumaba si Erap. I-boycott ang mga produkto ng mga crony companies.

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EUGENIA D. APOSTOL
Founding Chairman

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Collapse

EDITORIAL

PRESIDENT Estrada yesterday made a desperate move to hang on to power when he called for a snap general election in which he would not run. The call is provocative and flies in the face of the overwhelming explosion of people power demanding his immediate resignation, withdrawal of support by the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police, and the mass resignation of his Cabinet. Once again, as in the Edsa Revolution 15 years ago, a bloodless people power uprising has triggered defections from the ranks of the military, the police and the civil government, causing the collapse of the Estrada administration.

Once again, the AFP and the police have joined the people in their peaceful movement for the removal of a corrupt and abusive regime. But this time, and fortunately for us, the collapse came without the AFP sending tanks to the streets. In withdrawing their support for the Estrada regime, the AFP rejected the option of seizing power through a coup and instead shifted their support behind civil society's movement for peaceful leadership change. This intervention is a healthy sign of the strength of democratic methods in changing the leadership.

The President's call for a snap poll appears to be a move not only to cling to power but also to cut a deal for a face-saving exit. When Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Angelo Reyes announced his defection together with the service commanders, he called for an "exit with dignity" for the President and his family. This suggests that a deal for a safe exit is in the works. But a snap election that allows him to stay in power until May is not viable and has an air of unreality. The people cannot wait for the snap election. They want Mr. Estrada out. The snap election option undermines the constitutional succession and damages further the fabric of the Constitution torn by the collapse of the impeachment trial arising from the suppression of evidence.

The President's call came after the collapse of his administration. The withdrawal of support by the Armed Forces and the police and the resignation of members of his Cabinet have left him with no government. With the defections, power has slipped out of the President's hands. Without a Cabinet, he cannot govern. Without the support of the Armed Forces and the police, he cannot command obedience and enforce his decisions. He has lost all moral and political authority.

After the avalanche of defections, presidential decisions are no longer binding. His administration is completely paralyzed. This paralysis cannot continue until May. The uncertainty fostered by the continuing crisis has accelerated the plunge of the economy to recession:

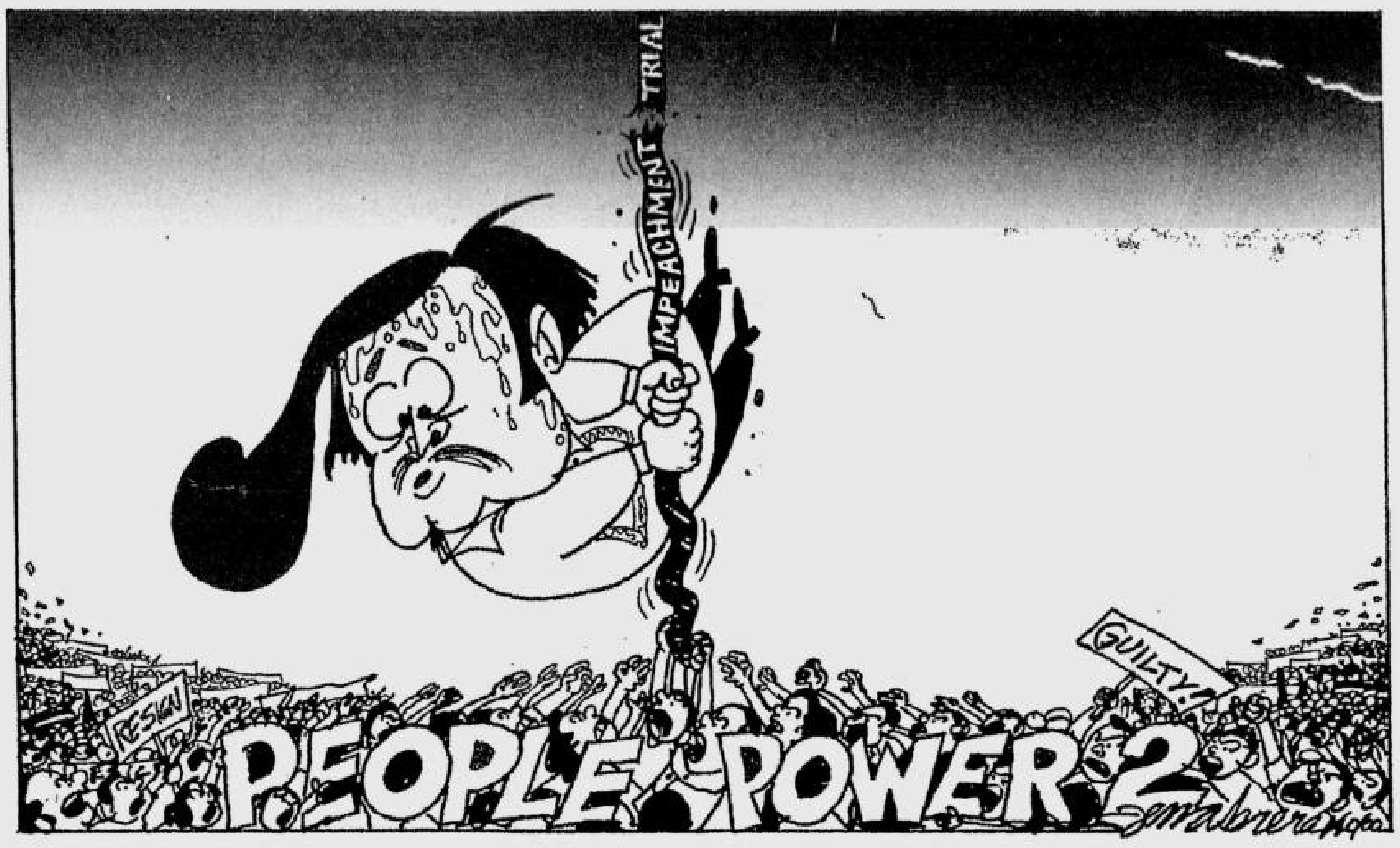
Earlier in the day, the President tried to save the suspended impeachment trial, as well as his administration, by offering to ask his lawyers to allow the opening of the envelope, which 11 of his allies in the Senate had opposed. The refusal of the Senate to look at the documents scuttled the impeachment process and sparked the popular upheaval in the streets. Mr. Estrada's offer came too late. It was swiftly overtaken by events. The parliament of the streets had taken over and the people, in a peaceful way, have determined the direction of events.

The suppression of evidence shattered the faith of Filipinos in the impeachment process, and drove them to the streets in a final showdown with the President. The people's outrage can no longer be redirected toward a snap election.

The withdrawal of support by the Armed Forces and the police, which read correctly the depth and scale of the anger of the people, sealed the fate of Mr. Estrada. It triggered the mass Cabinet defections. When General Reyes joined the rally at the Edsa Shrine to announce withdrawal of support, he had the services commander behind him in a show of solidarity. The defection of Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado from the Cabinet symbolized the President's rupture from the military chain of command.

Of great significance was Reyes' call on the Armed Forces to support the constitutional successor. It clashes with the President's call for a snap election. The mass defection of military and police officers averted a bloody upheaval. They isolated the President completely.

The crisis can only be resolved by Mr. Estrada's immediate resignation. That is the only option available to him. The President should not wait for the forces at Edsa to drag him bodily out of Malacañang. Ferdinand Marcos showed the way in 1986. Mr. Estrada should simply follow what Marcos did.



The gathering storm

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

PERCEPTIVE people knew more or less what was going to happen at the impeachment trial last Tuesday. The second envelope that the prosecution wanted opened contained explosive documents that would have exposed President Estrada's alleged hidden fortune. The defense was not going to let that happen. It put up a lot of legal arguments but these did not really matter in the end. What did was the support of the majority of the senators who were determined to save their bedraggled hero in Malacañang. This was an essential part of the script.

Under the arrogant generalship of Juan Ponce Enrile and Miriam Defensor-Santiago, and prodded from behind the scences by the wily Ernesto Maceda, the pro-Erap senators prepared to throttle the opposition. Their front man was Francisco Tatad, who had 19 years ago announced the beginning of the Marcos dictatorship and became one of its leading minions. Lined up like disciplined robots were the senators who, for one reason or another, were committed to the embattled President's defense. They were ready to be herded like sheep or the pliable flock of El Shaddai.

All the prosecutors wanted was the disclosure of the documents in the envelope that would tell the secret story of President Estrada's enormous fortune. This was part of their allegation of the respondent's unexplained wealth contained in the Articles of Impeachment. The defense vigorously objected. It insisted that the impeachment court had no jurisdiction over the envelope because it was not covered by the impeachment charges. The prosecution demanded: Why are you afraid of the truth? The defense answered with legalisms.

Rodolfo Biazon put it dramatically: "Let us release the truth imprisoned in that envelope! The people are entitled to know what's inside that envelope. We should not conceal it from them!" Other senators stressed that it was the Senate that was on trial, much more so than respondent Estrada. Invoking, the memory of his father and also Ninoy Aquino, brother of pro-Erap Tessie Oreta, Ramon Magsaysay Jr. asked his colleagues to follow their example. Loren Legarda Leviste was the lone lady dissenter and proved braver than her male collegues on the other side.

It was either an orchestrated plan or peeve over his heated exchange with prosecutor Joker Arroyo (who got the better of him) that made Tatad abruptly move for a formal vote on the question before the court. Enrile was quick on cue to second the motion. The Chief Justice, who would ordinarily have made an initial ruling subject to a motion for reconsideration by the senators themselves, did not choose to do so. Senators Raul Roco and Frank Drilon urged him to exercise that prerogative but he refused, saying he had been pre-empled by the motion.

I think Davide lost a wonderful opportunity to assert his judicial statesmanship and add to his already high stature when he declined to express his views as presiding officer of the impeachment court. The senators, lawyers and non-lawyers, would have been influenced, or at least educated, by the legal opinion of the highest judicial officer in the land. There is no question that, favorable or not, his initial ruling would have been the subject of a motion for reconsideration and, if adverse to the defense, would have been reversed by the Erap camp. That was inevitable. Davide probably did not relish the probability of being publicly overruled.

Such reversal would have enhanced his hero-image and made him the object of more public admiration for standing up to the Erap forces. The chief justice preferred instead to rest on his laurels, which I regret to note have wilted in the eyes of many people. I suspect that it was his apprehension that he would be faulted in any event for whatever ruling he would make that convinced him that he should not speak at all. That was the safer but not the valorous course. The preemptive motion gave him the opportunity to excuse himself, but I think it was a cop-out just the same.

Going over the list of senators who defeated the motion to open that envelope, I find that on the average its intellectual quality, objectiveness and background are far from impressive. Enrile, Tatad and Ople were among the pillars of the Marcos despotism, with which Erap is also identified. Santiago and Coseteng have relatives in the government who may be replaced at pleasure. Revilla, Jaworski and Sotto could never have inspired Rodin's famous sculpture. Oreta and John Osmeña are known as the *balato* twins and Honasan is generally reputed as Enrile's man. There are only two lawyers in the group.

By contrast, those who wanted the envelope opened include five lawyers, a doctor, a businessman, an engineer, a general, and a journalist. There is no basketball player, television comic or movie action star among them. Moreover, they have no commitments to the administration nor do they expect favors from Erap, some of them having rejected invitations to join the administration senatorial ticket. If Mr. Estrada is to be believed this one time—and why not?—they are the "liars" and "enemies" who will be the object of presidential vengeance when the impeachment trial is over. They have everything to lose and nothing to gain from opposing the President.

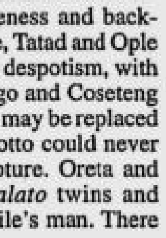
Nothing to gain, that is, except the people's accolade for their courage in facing up to the most powerful official in the country. Immediately after the crucial vote was taken Tuesday night, the nation's resentment, already simmering as the President's alleged corruption began to grow by the hour, boiled over and overflowed the Senate chambers into the streets below and all over Metro Manila. As news of the administration juggernaut spread, the turmoil grew in other parts of the country to threaten another Edsa in the making against the new dictatorship. There was praise all over for the anti-Erap senators and Aquilino Pimentel's resignation as Senate president. There were also massive denunciations of President Estrada and his senator-henchmen.

Things are in a flux as of this writing, and no one knows for sure what's going to happen. It's certain, though, that the maneuvers of the administration have not quieted the clamor, now turning into angry agitation, for President Estrada's resignation despite his expected acquittal in the impeachment trial. The proceedings have now been revealed as nothing but an expensive *moro-moro* paid for by the people themselves for their own deception. The demand is growing that the farce be stopped.

But I for one do not believe that the trial should end. We should continue the proceedings because they will provide the forum to enable the prosecution to introduce further evidence of President Estrada's incredible iniquities. The people have a right to be outraged by the enormity of his offenses even if the evidence is later suppressed by the pro-Erap senators as irrelevant and immaterial. *Their* judgment will be irrelevant and immaterial. It is the verdict of the people that will find Joseph Estrada guilty as charged on all counts.

Rationalizations

GET REAL



Solita Collas-Monsod

GIVE me an honest prostitute any day. They make no bones about what they are about. No pretensions, no hiding behind rationalizations and self-serving statements.

Take Sen. Kit Tatad. I read in yesterday's INQUIRER his claim that he is sorry that his friends are in agony because of his decision, and he is in greater agony because he respects them and values their opinion. BUT (there is always a but)… "I take my position on the issues before the court as a judge on the basis of law, not politics."

Really, Kit? If that were the case, and since you are not a lawyer, can you please tell us why you deliberately bypassed the opinion of the highest magistrate of the land, who, you must admit, just might know more law than you? Did you really think that your opinion on the law would be superior to his?

If politics was not the basis of your position, can you tell me then why you didn't want to hear the opinion of arguably the only one in the entire impeachment court who could not be accused of bias or partiality?

But you already knew what Davide's opinion would be, didn't you? Loren Legarda tells us that in the Senate caucus on Monday night, Davide, all of whose previous rulings in the impeachment trial you had fatefully accepted, had already announced that he was tending toward allowing the opening of that second envelope. And so you preempted him. That action, you say, is based on law, and not politics?

Bull.

And then there is Tessie Oreta. To hear her tell it, her vote not to open the envelope was driven by an altruistic desire: to protect the banking system, which was already suffering from massive withdrawals as a result, presumably, of the bank deposit information some banks had divulged. She was also most emphatic in her disapproval of the prosecution's "fishing expedition."

Such solicitude over the banking system might otherwise be very touching. Except that she seems to be the only one worrying about it. The country's monetary authority never expressed concern about any potential damage to the banking system that might occur because information was divulged on certain deposits. And that is because they know, as does everyone who has followed the trial, that impeachment cases are specifically exempted from the deposit secrecy law.

Besides, the run on Equitable PCI Bank (one bank does not a system make), if one looks at the chronology involved, was not caused by its divulging information. Rather, it was because of the perceived crony status of its former chair George Go, plus the rumor that it was trying to cover the financial tracks of the President.

And what fishing expedition is she talking about? Joker Arroyo already specified exactly what they expected the documents to reveal. When one goes fishing, one casts out lures, not sure of what one is going to catch, or even if there is anything to catch. Which, in any event, is supposedly a standard technique used by both prosecution and defense.

Oreta also would have us believe that the little jig she performed after the vote, captured on nationwide television, was prompted by her success in protecting the nation's banking system? And that phone conversation she was having, was with the Bangko Sentral governor?

It would have been better if she conducted a conversation with the marines.

Give me an Ople anytime. No apologies, no rationalization about why he did not want the envelope opened. No tiresome attempt to cosmeticize his partisan vote. Perhaps it is only because he is recuperating from an operation, but his silence was at least refreshing.

Or even a Revilla, whose intellectual capacity prevents him from attempting to make black appear white and vice versa, or when he does make the attempt, he at least provides some comic relief.

"JOE'S COHORTS" Jaworski, Oreta, Enrile, Santiago. Coseting, Osmeña, Honasan, Ople, Revilla, Tatad, Sotto. That amazingly descriptive acronym will allow us to remember the senators who prostituted themselves to the dictates of Malacañang, turning their backs on the Filipino people who elected them into office precisely to represent the common interest.

No amount of rationalization, no amount of "colloquy" can disguise the fact that theirs was a brazen attempt to withhold information from the Filipino people whom they took an oath to serve. And that the withholding of the information was not to protect the people, or further the people's interests, but to protect one man, and further his (and their own) selfish interests.

Shame on them.

John Osmeña cynically asked: What's the fuss about? If he really wants to know, I refer him to the neighbors of Titong Mendoza, who nightly conduct a noise barrage in front of his house. Why should they make a fuss about a lawyer who claims no knowledge of what transpires in his office, under his very nose, that is being done to protect someone who happens to be his client?

Or how about him and Miriam going to Edsa to conduct a colloquy with the students there, and find out what the fuss is about? If that daunts them, they may feel more comfortable in Mendiola, where news reports are that the pro-Erap demonstrators are sporting body tattoos. They can at least try to determine whether the crowd there is "*hakot*" or not. Those signs in Mendiola seem professionally done, compared to the distinctly amateurish signs of the "other" demonstrators. I would like to introduce them to a teacher I met in Malolos, Bulacan, who proudly waved her handmade "Estrada: May you rest impeached to me." She can tell them why she is making a fuss.

Or I can refer, say, Coseteng and Jaworski to three ladies who drove themselves in separate cars to Johnny Ponce Enrile's house, and determinedly conducted their own noise barrage on the morning after Tuta Tuesday. They will tell the senators why they are making their fuss.

On the other hand, Tito Sotto may want to interview one of my acquaintances, so he can get to the bottom of the simple story that she tells: Her two townmates, who used to be Marcos goons, and were mostly unemployed since the dictator's fall, have since the past month been earning P500 a day each. They work as demonstrators in the pro-Erap rallies. Perhaps Sotto may even want to be the godfather of this new industry.

They should listen to the people more. They may learn something.

An electrifying pattern in Edsa I and II

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

AS this column was being finished yesterday afternoon, I learned that Defense Secretary Orly Mercado and the top brass of the AFP were holding an urgent meeting in Camp Aguinaldo, apparently preparatory to making a momentous decision. Every ranking general was there. Earlier, former President Cory Aquino had called for people power at Edsa, a show of force, because she was supposed to meet very soon with AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Angelo Reyes at Edsa. Reports said Cory would make an important announcement later. Wisely she chose to surround herself with her people to protect her and witness this historic meeting with the defense and AFP brass. By 12 noon the Edsa crowds had already surpassed those of the day before, in anticipation of something big.

* * *

All morning yesterday, sources within the military were saying that Mercado, Reyes and the entire AFP hierarchy were going to Edsa to announce their withdrawal of support from Estrada and that they were joining with the righteous cause of the people against the corrupt and morally bankrupt administration. This was an electrifying repetition of Edsa I, when Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile and AFP acting Chief of Staff Fidel Ramos broke away from the corrupt Marcos regime. But at this point where is PNP Director-General Panfilo Lacson? Metro Manila PNP Chief Edgar Aglipay and his four district commanders have already defected, but Lacson's stand is still unclear. It would be foolhardy and suicidal for him, though, to break away from the people.

* * *

For those of us who were at Edsa I and who have been looking at the "military factor" in Edsa II, when the "defection" of the military came through finally just before 4 p.m., the repetition of the pattern in Edsa I and II was incredible. As the generals and Mercado waded through the ecstatic crowd, the people went into a frenzy. *Nakatatayo ng balahibo.* It was history in the making.

It is obvious that God is scripting the scenario for his prayerful people. His hand is all over the place. God be praised. It is also an obvious lesson that no public official, civil or military, can ever afford to ignore the will of the people. Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, who will succeed Estrada, should never forget this. Yesterday's event demonstrated to the world anew the undeniable force of our people power.

* * *

By withdrawing support from the Erap administration, the military brought Estrada's unlamented regime to an inglorious finish. I would personally have wanted the Cabinet to have first withdrawn support and the military to serve only as "witness." That way we don't owe the military too much. But we civilians thank them, nonetheless, for heeding the people's sentiment.

I have never doubted that when push comes to shove, when the chips are down, the military will be on the side of the people. Secretary Mercado, dressed in black, the color of protest, and General Reyes were accompanied by the major service commanders. The "defectors" included the Air Force Chief, Lt. Gen. Benjamin Defensor, who said he was defecting "for love of country." Thus Defensor redeemed his sister, the disgraced Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago.

* * *

This military breakaway from Estrada is indeed the answer to all our prayers. The Filipino people have played a heroic role in standing up to the administration and the military have correctly read the outpouring of the people's sentiment against it. At this point, we enjoin everyone to pray that the transfer of power will be peaceful and orderly and constitutional. May God bless this country we all love. May the Lord and Our Lady of Edsa, the Queen of Peace, continue to guide our destiny as a nation.

* * *

With the withdrawal of support of the military from Estrada, the installation of Vice President Macapagal as president should follow. This should render moot and academic the calls from a few misguided people for her to step down along with President Estrada "in the interest of the nation" so that a snap election could be held. Asking her to step down and give way to a snap election is an insane proposition. Macapagal is the duly constituted successor to Estrada and she should succeed him.

* * *

A snap election would only benefit the very people we are seeking to remove, because the Estrada-Cojuangco faction is the only one with money to buy and manipulate the elections. Besides, the country can only afford one major political earthquake at a time; like a building the political edifice could collapse from too many quakes and shocks. What we now ought to do is support Macapagal to the fullest as she begins the frightfully difficult task of reconstructing a shattered nation and uniting a divided people. She deserves all our prayers and support.

* * *

President Estrada, in a last-minute attempt at rallying for his political life, said over nationwide TV he was willing to have the second envelope opened in the interest of the nation. But the prosecutors who had walked out would never agree to return to the trial. For one thing, the impeachment process has lost all credibility and nothing will restore it at this point. Moreover, it has been overtaken by events.

Estrada's "order" to have the second envelope opened insulted the 11 who made such a show of acting independently. What he did was to expose them as lackeys of Malacañang.

* * *

Among the most battered among the 11 senators who voted not to open the second envelope was Sen. Kit Tatad, and I am sorry for him. I wish he read the sentiment of the people properly, as another dear friend, Sen. John Osmeña, also should have done. Tatad is blamed for calling for the vote regarding the opening of the envelope, and his motion was seconded by Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile. His action embarrassed Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., who ought to first have ruled on the issue before it could be challenged by the senators. But Tatad and Enrile, obviously following a script, jumped the gun on the Chief Justice, who had prepared for this historic role. They stole the impeachment process from him—and that was most unkind.

* * *

That fateful night of last Tuesday, Tatad couldn't go home to La Vista as his neighbors had barricaded the streets. They have demanded his ouster from the place. Tatad experienced a double whammy when he got an open letter from two of his "brothers" in Opus Dei, former Finance Secretary Jess Estanislao and former Central Bank Governor Joey Cuisia, right after the voting. The two former officials expressed "disillusionment" over Tatad's failure "to rise to the moral high ground we frankly expected you to take." Giving it to him straight, Estanislao and Cuisia said that the issue is "not just a matter of politics, but of morals as well."

Two republics

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

WE have been, in the symbolic if not really geographic sense, divided into two republics. The Second Edsa Republic was born spontaneously, the child of popular righteous anger midwifed by texters and phone brigades. At the foot of Mendiola Bridge has sprouted the ragtag Republic of Remain, a catch-up sibling born, as was many of the pro-Erap activities, as a copycat action hatched by professional agitators and paid converts.

The two republics have distinct characteristics. Sadly for those supporting the President, the Edsa Shrine has turned out to be the "cool" place to be, where families, students and community delegations mingle in joyous protest. Here, too, icons of protest like Jaime Cardinal Sin, former President Cory Aquino, and leaders of a rainbow of activist groups share the limelight with such show-biz figures as Nora Aunor, the APO and the coolest bands in the land.

At Mendiola, the delegations have come mostly from urban poor communities, although there is also a disturbing report, published yesterday, that the pro-Eraps have recruited as marshals members of lumpen street gangs. Known to the public by the huge graffiti symbols they paint all over town, these gang members are as prone to battling one another as they are to ganging up on University Belt students they suspect of not sharing their sponsors' sentiments. The gang members, it would seem, are an apt symbol of the mood at Mendiola: sullen, resentful, angry.

* * *

YESTERDAY, the two republics met on common ground, in the pristine and usually quiet streets of Makati's Central Business District. Though it is the anti-Eraps who seek to shake up the establishment, enough to force the President out of office, it is the pro-Eraps who seem to be spoiling for a fight.

Anti-Erap groups had first planned to motor from the Edsa Shrine to Mendiola to symbolically hand the President or his representative the people's verdict of "Guilty" in the impeachment proceedings. The trip to Mendiola, scheduled for yesterday, was postponed however. Officially, the reason given was that organizers wanted to wait for the arrival of supporters from nearby provinces. But there were also reports that serious concerns about security and the desire to avoid violent confrontations were raised.

But even before the "antis" could venture toward Mendiola, the Republic of Remain launched an invasion force into Edsa "territory."

Conveyed by buses and jeeps paid for by local governments, a crowd of Erap supporters marched down Ayala Avenue, meeting at the foot of the Ninoy statue where they proceeded to trash and trample on blow-up photos of Ninoy's widow. Undaunted, Makati yuppies in their long-sleeved shirts and ties and office uniforms yelled anti-Erap jeers from their windows while many others left their offices to hold an impromptu sidewalk rally.

It seemed an incongruous and lopsided fight, as seen on TV footage. Here were the aforementioned lumpen gang members, bearing wooden stakes and rocks (not normally found along Ayala) battling white-collar traders, brokers, clerks, secretaries, researchers who were armed with nothing more than a thumbs-down gesture and computer print-out banners.

The footage seems an apt illustration of the class divide that Erap himself has done his darndest to establish. But the incident itself is an indictment of the hollow claims of yearnings for peace and unity that fall so smoothly from the mouths of Erap's spokespersons.

* * *

WHAT was the point of the invasion of Ayala, an area long conceded as the enclave of the "anti" forces?

Police and military leaders had said, from the start of the protests, that they would keep neutral, their only concern the maintenance of a free and orderly flow of human and vehicular traffic. They would move, they said, only if violence and mayhem should break out.

Is the rock-throwing and violent confrontation on Ayala, provoked and indeed introduced by the "pro" camp, really meant to light the fuse of chaos and trigger an armed response?

Despite the protestations of even-handedness and sobriety from law enforcers, the police and military have not exactly kept a hands-off policy in this. Last Wednesday, for instance, a Victory Bus filled with anti-Erap protesters from Olongapo was stopped in Bataan and boarded by a policeman who wanted to know where the bus was bound. When a quick search unearthed no weapons or ammunition, the bus was allowed to move on, but it was stopped again in Lubao. In San Fernando, near the toll gate, the bus was stopped once more by a battalion of fully armed SWAT operatives. All the men in the bus were ordered to get off, but after a few minutes, they were allowed to reboard. The bus itself though was escorted back to the Pampanga-Bataan boundary by a police mobile car, after the leader told the driver "not to meddle in something that's none of your business." Who issued orders to block protesters from the provinces?

* * *

ALL President Erap has to do really is to play the waiting game between these two contending "republics."

Though Ernie Maceda's sneering words stung, they held a kernel of truth. However cool and jovial the Edsa gathering, it cannot hold indefinitely. After some time, people have to go back to work, students have to continue their studies, life must go on. Time is on Erap's side.

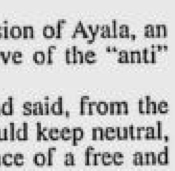
There are those among the Second Edsa Republic's leadership who are already chafing at the bit, wondering when they could transform the Edsa protest from "a traffic and sanitation problem" to a "national security problem." Indeed, sooner or later, the energies of the protesters must flag, and there is need to up the ante, escalate the level of protest.

Unforeseen, though, is that it would be those on the other side who would first bring this game of numbers into the territory of street fights and ugly brawls. So which of the two is the banana republic now?

Quo vadis, Filipinas?

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper



THERE are as many theories as there are commentators speculating on the reasons for the seeming chaos if not disintegration of Philippine society. While the truly cynical might not have felt much surprise at the damaging revelations disclosed at the impeachment trial concerning the President, many were astounded and shocked at the scope and depth of the corruption.

Ferdinand Marcos being the benchmark, against whom others are compared, people are now saying that what took him 20 years to do President Estrada has done in two and a half. But from the beginning of this administration, the word was out that the stealing would be accelerated because no one expected Estrada to "last" given his lifestyle. Much to a lot of people's chagrin, he has surprised everyone.

In retrospect, Marcos himself didn't seem very much interested in amassing mansions, mistresses and a collection of children. What apparently turned him on was power, the money being necessary for its maintenance. But then again, no one ever said Marcos was stupid or vapid or trivial.

In Estrada's case, it's difficult to accept that scams of this magnitude were carried out merely to support wine, women and song. There was no grand design to dominate the world, not even Southeast Asia for that matter. It was just ordinary, everyday, garden-variety larceny (amazing only because of the amounts) that could not have happened had it not been for the complicity of those who put Joseph Estrada in power and obviously continue to support him. The focus may be on the President as villain yet his backers were well aware of the man's lack of qualifications for the position. All they were interested in at the time was his "winnability." Is it that they thought they could control him and in effect run the country for themselves? By now it is obvious the former actor had his own ideas but the joke was not on them as much as on us.

What further distresses is being told that our leaders are mirrors of our values and ourselves. It is here that we should pause and ask ourselves, how did it happen? It seems to me that this is not a question of compartmentalized Christianity whereby the tenets of the religion are only skin-deep. (One cannot help but wonder at front-page photographs of a man who keeps a stable of mistresses and impregnates a couple every year receiving Holy Communion.) Given that not everyone believes in organized religion or in an after life, still there is a question of ethics, of right and wrong, which we are told is inherent in every human being. It would be kinder to believe that the perpetrators of the crimes being revealed daily were unaware of any wrongdoing.

Filipinos like to claim that ours is the only Catholic country in Asia, but what the trial is proving is that not only are we not Christians but our concept of right and wrong is blurred. I remember the husband of a friend of mine saying that even if caught *in flagrante*, you deny to your dying breath whatever "sin" you may be guilty of. This appears to be the case in the impeachment trial where everyone else is lying. And Dante Tan, of course, doesn't know why people should be accusing him of all sorts of skullduggery. Who knows? Maybe they don't like his accent.

Listening to Ruben Almadro, Jose Yulo and Edgardo Espiritu reveal the manipulation of BW stocks that led to the collapse of the stock market, the PNB behest loan granted with almost worthless collateral, the bribes and the threats, the feeling of revulsion at the total disregard for the consequences by the people involved is overwhelming. Didn't anyone feel any sorrow for this country?

The other incident that has caught the citizenry by surprise is the company Joseph Estrada keeps. If we believe Espiritu's allegations, Malacañang was the haven of smugglers, and if you take Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson's testimony at face value, then the rest of the crowd were gamblers if not kidnappers. This is the President of the Philippines? And he reflects us? Ouch.

Then you go back to the fact that a lot of people believe he will be acquitted not because he is innocent but because he holds in thrall a majority of the senator-judges. Do these officials then believe that the economy can survive three more years of this administration with the Aventajados and the Jimenezes and the one-syllable names who grace his presence?

It appears easy enough to claim that Clarissa Ocampo's testimony is irrelevant and immaterial and should therefore not be considered admissible. No one apparently is denying the occurrence of the incident Ocampo witnessed.

What kind of a chief executive do we then have? A fine example for the youth? A role model for husbands and fathers?

So where are we at this point and where are we going? Our sociologists should be sharpening their pencils and theorizing why we missed our chance at Edsa to change the feudal make-up of our society and alter its values. Can they tell us where we go from here if we are not willing to change or do not know how to, and there is no mercy in our hearts for this country?

Things are not always what they seem

YOUNGBLOOD

Edward A. Ricamora

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I CONSIDER the impeachment trial to be a useless exercise. The verdict was out even before the trial could start.

The way the proceedings are going, the President will be acquitted. (He's very confident about this, even boldly predicting many times over that he would be acquitted of all the charges against him.) Not because he is innocent or the prosecution is not capable of proving him guilty, but for the reason that a number of pro-Estrada senator-judges are bent on acquitting him. For them, guilty or not guilty, the President must remain in his office. For what reason, I do not know.

I am certain that these pro-Estrada senator-judges are protecting and defending the President by trying to suppress the truth by preventing the opening of documents in court and destroying the credibility of witnesses. And while they are doing this, the defense lawyers are doing everything to weaken the prosecution's case by blocking the introduction of evidence on the grounds of immateriality. In any court of law, *kahit ilan pang bomba ang pasabugin mo,* if you can't establish the relationship among pieces of evidence and testimony, you are not likely to win your case.

With the exclusion of evidence, the pro-Estrada senator-judges can then declare the President not guilty, while projecting themselves to be impartial. That would allow them to get away from intense public scrutiny and save their political career. *Wais!*

Little do these pro-Estrada senator-judges know that the more they do their thing, the more the people believe that the President is indeed guilty. Little do they know that they are losing the public's trust. If we're to convert this into electoral votes, that could amount to tens of thousands, perhaps more.

The pro-Estrada senator-judges and defense lawyers may succeed in preventing the President from being impeached. However, with a number of anti-Estrada senator-judges, determined and calm witnesses, damning documents, a persevering prosecution team, the prying media; and the impartial Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. presiding, I believe they'll have a hard time concealing the truth.

If you happen to be a relative of anyone of these pro-Estrada senators and defense lawyers, kindly tell them to just keep their mouth shut. They can't fool us!

A survey whose results were released on the eve of the impeachment trial reported an increase in the President's approval ratings. *Ganun ba*?! His rating was even higher than those of opposition leaders like Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, former Presidents Fidel Ramos and Corazon Aquino and Jaime Cardinal Sin. *Ano*?! How could that be when many groups have joined the clamor for his resignation? Hey, did they say Secretary Robert Aventajado financed the survey? That might explain it.

The people we see in the streets of Metro Manila rallying in support of the President are merely *hakot.* They get paid and are given free meals and transportation for doing this.

The President and his men also took advantage of the "National Day for Prayer and Fasting for National Strength and Unity Against All Adversities." The Luneta assembly would be a genuine prayer rally, they assured the people they invited to the gathering. More than a million followers of the El Shaddai Movement, Iglesia Ni Cristo and yes the ever-present *hakot* crowd attended the rally. As expected, the President bragged that these people were his supporters. "*Kumita na 'yan!*"

Appeasing the nation

I don't like the manner by which the President is trying to appease the people. He has been frequenting poor communities. He has been giving "gifts" and land titles, which were taken back as swiftly as they were given, to these usually ignorant, illiterate and easily deceived poor people.

This so-called *masa* believe that the President would alleviate their poverty. They're sticking it out with him. Every word coming from Erap, the *masa* will believe.

Trying to appease the Catholic Church, the President commuted to life imprisonment all death sentences meted out last year. He even promised to certify to Congress as urgent a bill seeking the repeal of the death penalty law. He ordered the release of some 200 political prisoners before Christmas.

Did he say Christmas? Christmas is over, but I haven't heard if all of the political prisoners have been released. Two were released a few days after he made the announcement. Thanks, but no thanks.

I don't think the President can appease the nation with these measures. He can do it by stepping down from the presidency.

Reasons for hanging on

I kind of believe that the exposé of Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson affected the President so much that he almost stepped down. But he didn't and perhaps he'll never do so. Why? These are some of the possible reasons:

- Stepping down is as good as an admission of guilt.
- The lure of power is too strong he cannot resist it.
- He isn't wealthy enough yet.
- His cronies love the power and the opportunity to gain greater wealth, which comes with being associated with the President, and they won't let him step down.
- He has a big chance of being acquitted—there's enough number of pro-Estrada senator-judges to acquit him.
- He is not afraid of the Lord's judgment.

Every time I'm in a difficult situation and every time I have to make an important decision, I seek the Lord's wisdom and guidance. I always pray that His will be done because His answers are always better than our prayers.

Let's put our trust in the Lord as we wait for what will happen next.

This song, "God will make a way," may serve as an inspiration. It goes this way:

God will make a way
Where there seems to be no way
He works in ways we cannot see
He will make a way for me
He will be my guide
Hold me closely to His side
With love and strength for each new day
He will make a way (2x)
By the roadway in the wilderness
He'll lead me
And rivers in the desert will I see
Heaven and earth wild fade
But His word will still remain
He will do something new today

Forgiving and healing

I am certain that the turbulence we are going through is not meant to shake just one man. It is meant to shake the entire nation. And it is happening for a cause. I believe that God willed this for us to see Him and what He can do.

The Lord said: "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land."

I hope we all see our wrongs, admit it, repent, seek His forgiveness, and accept Him as our personal Lord and Savior.

Edward A. Ricamora, 24, is taking his master's in psychology at the St. Paul University in Tuguegarao City. He is currently busy working on his thesis.

Betrayal at the Senate

WE join the Filipino people in their grief after their betrayal by the 11 senator-judges who chose to turn away from the truth, and who, instead of protecting our rights, dishonored us by destroying the very institution they represent. We can no longer believe in the impartiality of these senators-judges. We can no longer give credence to the Senate as an institution.

The brunt of these events will be absorbed by the people and the nation's economy. While the different sectors of our society continue to seek for truth and justice, we call on everyone to exercise fairness and sobriety. Violence should be abhorred at all times.

We commend the 10 valiant senators who are steadfast in their belief and conviction that justice can only be served by pursuing all means for the truth to come out.—**JOHANNE MUTIN, founding convenor, Young Muslim Professionals in D'Metro, 54 Maginhawa St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City**

What do other spiritual advisers have to say?

JAIME Cardinal Sin has declared he will lead a second Edsa uprising if President Estrada is acquitted under questionable circumstances. This has drawn flak from Estrada's supporters. Arguments of the separation of church and state will be raised. Biblical references will be quoted and bandied about.

Sin's outrage over Erap's governance stems from the Church's view that society must be governed by Christian ethics as expounded by Pope Leo XIII. In biblical times, God's prophets were fearless critics of the indiscretions in the House of David of the Old Testament to the immorality in the Court of Herod in Jesus' time. In modern times, Pius XI and Pius XII have not been indifferent to the rise of Fascism and Communism in Europe. Neither did John Paul II ignore the excesses of governments in post World War II in Eastern Europe. While they may no longer be rulers, the priests are still teachers with pastoral duties.

We have a proliferation of religious groups all invoking the name of Christ. What have they done to provide moral guidance to their anointed spiritual ward they helped install in the highest office of the land? Their words are unheard of in the din of horrifying accusations in the impeachment court!—**E.P. DAKANAY JR., 43 Baltazar St., Philamlife Village, Pamplona, Las Piñas City**

Wrong end of Semirara

IN THE ARTICLE "Semirara dump deal raises stink," the writer erroneously identified the planned Semirara dump as Panian Pit. That is incorrect. The targeted dump is the old Unong Pit situated at the southern part of the island, near Barangay Tinugbok. Panian Pit is the new mining site of the Semirara Coal Corp. (now owned by DMCI) which is located at the northern part of the island.

I'd like, though, to laud Senators Loren Legarda and Robert Jaworski for their concern for the environment and the welfare of the residents of Semirara Island. I worked there for about five years. Every time I look at the photos I took of the Panian Pit area, before the destructive impact of mining operations, I always feel sad at the thought of losing the beautiful hills, plateaus, white-sand beach (in Tabunan Cove and nearby islets), and the coral reefs all the way to Tungao Point.

Nonetheless, please do not stop featuring how the government's ill-planned dumping of Metro Manila's garbage on Semirara Island will affect the environment and its people.—**LITO REYES, reyes_js@hotmail.com**

Reasons to admire senator-judges

KINDLY allow me to express my admiration and support for the following senators and their stellar performances so far in the impeachment trial proceedings:

Sen. Franklin Drilon, for being fearlessly attentive to details and vigilant for any disrespect or dirty tactics being used in the honorable impeachment court.

Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste, for focusing her well-honed though non-lawyer's eyes on muddled issues, and her fresh insights as well as beauty, intelligence and poise in sometimes stressful moments.

Sen. Raul Roco, for being sensitive to use Filipino often enough to make the trial accessible to common folk, and for using the right amount of intellectual humor to drive home his points.

Sen. Teofisto Guingona, for showing himself to be not a useless *trapo*, and for being short yet concise in his questions and clarifications.

Sen. Renato Cayetano, for using his knowledge of the law in the pursuit of the truth and not just to pay lip service to fairness and accuracy.

Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. for being impressively objective and efficient in his post.

As for the other members of the Senate, if they wish not to be held in contempt by the public, the key is to take positive action—not be passive or arrogant.—**JOSELITO B. CRUZ, 12 Lavender St., SSS Village, Marikina City**

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

LETTERS

Oreta acted like a cheerleader

THE VOTING on whether the second Equitable PCI Bank envelope would be opened or not was saddening and a disgrace to our justice system. It only shows that the senator-judges who voted no to the opening of the envelope were partial and their only concern was their own political interests.

What was more disappointing was the attitude shown by some senator-judges, particularly the actuations of the "honorable" Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta who was shouting at the prosecutors and dancing in victory.

What happened that night was not a game where she can cheer the victors and boo the vanquished. Oreta is not a cheerleader. She should have comported herself with dignity in keeping with the gravity of the occasion or at least in the manner of a mature person.—**DELFIN V. AGUILAR, Room 610, Manila Bank Bldg., Ayala Avenue, Makati City**

Political lepers

JUDAS Iscariot now has his own rat pack. Their names are: Dominique Coseteng, Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Teresita Aquino-Oreta, John Osmeña, Francisco Tatad, Gregorio Honasan, Juan Ponce Enrile, Tito Sotto, Roberto Jaworski, Blas Ople and Ramon Revilla. For much more than 30 pieces of silver, they sold their souls and their country to whomever!

Will they spend the rest of their lives paying off karmic debts and will they forever be the shame of their fellowmen?

Henceforth, they can consider themselves the "political living lepers." Some of them were my close and dear friends once. Now I have taken them out of my list of friends forever!—**NAME WITHHELD ON REQUEST**

In the realm of fantasy

AS bannered in some newspapers, the Philippine National Police has tagged my husband, Ismail Abbas, as the mastermind of the Rizal bombings. He is alleged to be a leader of an elite Afghan-trained Moro Islamic Liberation Front commando. We all know that the allegation is ridiculous, incredible and in the realm of fantasy.

In the United States, when a crime is committed, the usual suspects are drug users or pushers, the Chicanos and the blacks. In the Philippines, the usual suspects for terrorist acts are the Muslims, Moros or foreigners. One Moro leader remarked that during the Spanish and American times, the slogan was: "A good Moro is a dead Moro." Today, it is: "A suspect is considered innocent unless proven Muslim or Moro."

The Dec. 30 bombings are again blamed on the usual suspects, the Moros. Not content with arresting 19 Muslim residents of Culiat in Quezon City, my husband, Ismail "Bebot" Abbas, a member of the Abbas clan of Lanao, is the one blamed for this crime.

Anyone who knows my husband can vouch for his innocence. He is a mere taxi driver and operator. He has lived in Manila for 20 years now, and we have worked on an honorable living here in Manila as husband and wife.

On Jan. 3, days after the bombing, at 9:30 in the morning, Bebot was abducted by policemen in plain clothes who took him away in an L300 FB vehicle with no license plates. There was no warrant of arrest shown, and the abductors pointed a gun at any person present who moved to help Bebot in his distress.

On Jan. 4, accompanied by my relatives and human rights advocates from Karapatan, I went to Camp Aguinaldo and Camp Crame to look for my husband. The military (ISAFP) and the police (PAOCTF, CIDG) denied that they had Bebot in custody. On Jan. 5, I went to Fort Bonifacio and Camp Ricardo Papa in Bicutan. Again, the authorities denied Bebot was in their custody.

On that same day, I heard on the news that my husband was presented to the media by Director General Panfilo Lacson as the suspect in the Dec. 30 bombings and that a case had already been filed against him with the Department of Justice by Lacson. They charged him along with the hierarchy of the MILF of committing the bombings. He was tagged as an MILF leader, leader of the Afghan-trained commando unit, and the one who drove the car used to bomb the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

According to the police, 10 people saw Bebot alight from a red car in the area of the airport where a bomb eventually exploded. But Bebot has a good alibi. He was at home at that time, and there are a number of neighbors who will testify to that. Also, he has no connection with the MILF. He neither has the inclination nor the temperament to be a member of the MILF. Religious idealism is simply not for him. He is just a simple man.

I work as a translator for Arabic visas at the airport. Blowing up the airport would therefore endanger my life and my means of livelihood. So why in the world would my husband bomb the airport? It is simply illogical.

I appeal to my brothers and sisters at the Naia and to all my Muslim and Christian brothers and sisters to help free my husband. The bombings caused many deaths and should be condemned. However neither my husband nor the other Muslims rounded up by the military and police are guilty of this crime.

What is more condemnable, however, is that when it comes to the Muslims, they follow no rules. They seize, search and arrest any Muslim suspect without any warrant of arrest, plant bombs and firearms in their homes, and worse, they torture them to force them to admit to the crimes.

We migrated here from our war-torn hometowns in Mindanao in the hope of finding a peaceful life. However, the police and the military have made us Muslims here in Manila equally apprehensive for our lives. To them, we simply do not have any constitutional rights and are convenient fall guys for any bombing incidents here in Metro Manila.—**ANDABAE ABBAS, Barangay Pineda, Pasig City**

FORTES IN FIDE
ATENEO DE DAVAO

STATEMENT OF

THE ATENEO DE DAVAO UNIVERSITY

Davao City

The Ateneo de Davao University community wishes to loudly and publicly express its indignation against the bastardization of the Senate and of the impeachment process.

We condemn these eleven senator judges who voted to conceal the evidence of the second envelope, namely: Aquino-Oreta, Defensor-Santiago, Tatad, Ople, Enrile, Jaworski, Revilla, Coseteng, John Osmeña, Honasan and Sotto III.

Like serpents hiding behind the goobledygook of legalities, they shrewdly but shamelessly hid the truth and subverted the justice which they swore to seek as senator-judges. Promoting their own self-interests, they cynically made trash of the interest of the nation which, again, they were sworn to seek as representatives of the people.

It is truly only by way of a similar bastardization of the English language that they can be addressed "Your Honors."

However, just as the fifth of swines heightens the beauty of pearls, just as evil brings out the preciousness of good, so also the clear-headedness and courage of the other ten senators who voted to open the second envelope have brought honor and hope to the nation. We are proud of them, and we salute them, together with the other brave witnesses and prosecutors, as heroes of the people.

The subversion of our democratic process of impeachment by ostensibly legal but obviously immoral means has left us, the Filipino people, no other recourse by which we can protect ourselves against the evil of the very person we have entrusted with the highest authority and powers of the land.

And so we, at the Ateneo de Davao University, commit ourselves to actively participate in whatever legal and peaceful means we can find to express our sentiments and constitutional rights.

And we call upon Mr. Joseph Ejercito Estrada, more profitably known as Jose Velarde, to resign and end this travesty by which he sits upon the President's Chair as the Leader of the Filipino People. For travesty it is: far from seeking the welfare of the nation, he has sought only his welfare (giving generous balatos to his family, cronies, mistresses, and one amateur dancer) at the expense of the poor he falsely claims to champion. In the vain hope of financial luck, the poor make their precious two- or five- or ten-peso jueteng contributions, systematically organized for better collection, so that Jose Velarde or Kevin or Kelvin Garcia or some such creature (so low that it refuses to use its own name and come out to the light of day) may prosper.

We say: ERAP RESIGN!

It is the least and the one and only honorable thing you can still do!

The WORLD

MARGOT J. BATERINA, Editor

Blackouts hit California for 2nd straight day

SACRAMENTO—The lights went out in more than 675,000 California homes and businesses in a second straight day of blackouts as state lawmakers struggled to find a way out of the deepening crisis.

Effects began to ripple through the economy, as power problems shut down the state's main gasoline pipeline and forced farmers to dump milk because the dairy plants were operating on reduced hours.

The blackouts began about 10 a.m. Thursday and stretched from the Bakersfield area of central California to Oregon, 805 km away. The rolling outages lasted about two hours.

Power managers said they expected to avoid blackouts at night and were hopeful they would have enough power Friday, when demand was expected to lessen.

Meanwhile, lawmakers considered a stopgap $400-million rescue plan in which the state would buy power on the open market and provide it to strapped utilities at little cost.

The Senate passed the legislation overwhelmingly Thursday evening. The Assembly was to consider the plan later in the evening, and the governor is expected to sign it.

"We're troubled by what goes on in our state and we can only see it getting worse," said Senate leader John Burton.

Kinder Morgan Energy, one of the state's biggest pipeline companies, couldn't pipe gasoline from major California refineries to terminals around the state for 12 hours Thursday, said spokesperson Larry Pierce. The company is one of hundreds that have agreements with the utilities that give them lower rates in return for allowing the power company to turn off the electricity during shortages.

The volatile situation soon could lead to long gas lines and higher prices at the pump, said Bill Greehey, CEO of Valero Energy, which operates a Benicia refinery that produces about 10 percent of the state's gasoline supply.

"California is getting to the point where they are going to have a crisis that is a helluva lot bigger than the one it already has on its hands," Greehey said.

The exact number of homes and businesses affected was difficult to determine. *AP*

New Chinese destroyer sails thru Taiwan strait

TAIPEI—A new Russian-built destroyer has been delivered to China, Taiwanese officials said Friday, part of a naval build-up that could threaten Taiwan and the United States.

The Sovremenny-class guided-missile destroyer cruised through the Taiwan Strait last week on its way to a naval base in Qingdao in northeast China, the Taipei Times quoted Defense Minister Wu Shih-wen as saying. Wu did not provide further details, the English-language daily said.

A defense ministry spokesperson, speaking on customary condition of anonymity, confirmed that the ship, built in St. Petersburg, Russia, passed through the Taiwan Strait, but he would not elaborate.

The Sovremenny-class destroyer was the second of two China ordered from Russia in 1997 in a $1-billion deal. The first ship was delivered one year ago.

The destroyers, the largest and most powerful in the Chinese fleet, pose a considerable threat to Taiwan's Navy, which can't match them.

The 8,000-ton ships could also intercept US warships based on the nearby Japanese island of Okinawa that could come to protect Taiwan if China attacks, Taiwanese officials have said. *AP*

Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
Manila, Philippines

NOTICE TO MANILA REAL PROPERTY TAXPAYERS

All owners and/or administrators of real properties situated in Manila are hereby reminded that the last day for paying their real taxes for the FIRST QUARTER of calendar year 2001 without penalty is on March 31, 2001. At the option of the taxpayers, the next quarterly installments are as follows:

2nd Installment----- From April to June 2001
3rd Installment----- From July to September 2001
4th Installment----- From October to December 2001

Prompt quarterly payments entitles the taxpayer to the following discount.

1st month of the quarter - 15%
2nd & 3rd month of the quarter - 10%

Delinquent real property taxpayers are requested to pay their taxes in arrears as soon as possible to avoid additional penalties of 2% per month and the sale of the delinquent property at public auction.

A 20% discount will be granted if real property taxes for CY 2001 are paid in full on or before January 31, 2001.

Manila, January 17, 2001.

(SGD) LIBERTY M. TOLEDO
City Treasurer

(SGD) JOSE L. ATIENZA
City Mayor

May patawad sa presyo

pero sa germs, wala.

Safeguard
Instant Sanitizer
REFRESHING • NO RINSE

P35
na lang

Safeguard
Instant Sanitizer
REFRESHING • NO RINSE
ALL-FAMILY GERM PROTECTION

P99
na lang

Bodies of Chinese migrants who died in truck flown home

FUZHOU, China—The bodies of 58 Chinese migrants whose deaths in a tomato truck in Britain in June focused attention on China's vast trade in smuggled laborers were flown home Friday under intense security.

Fifty carloads of police ringed the airport as a plane that flew the coffins from London landed shortly before 4 a.m. in Fuzhou, a migrant-smuggling center on China's southeastern coast.

A British Broadcasting Corp. cameraman was the only foreign journalist allowed to join Chinese media watching the arrival. Local authorities, embarrassed by Fuzhou's notoriety, barred others from the event. Police questioned a reporter who photographed a mortuary Thursday in the nearby town of Changle and told him to leave the area.

By midmorning on Friday, most of the bodies had been cremated or buried without funerals. A mortuary employee in Changle, where an unknown number were cremated, said families were waiting in the street to receive the ashes.

Immediate cremation may have been required because of deterioration of the remains stored during the British investigation. The state newspaper Beijing Morning Post said the bodies, returned in lead-lined wooden coffins, were seriously decomposed.

A string of military trucks led by police cars took other bodies to Fuqing, another migrant center nearby, and to Fuzhou. Three bodies were unclaimed, according to the official newspaper China Daily.

Two male migrants survived the attempt to enter Britain from Belgium. British media say Chinese police were barred from questioning them, and retaliated by delaying permission for British police to visit Fujian, the province where Changle and Fuzhou are located.

The Dutch driver of the truck where the migrants were found June 18 is expected to go on trial next month on 58 counts of manslaughter. Two Chinese arrested in Britain have been charged with migrant smuggling.

Chinese authorities refuse comment, but British police say they are believed to also have made two arrests.

The deaths focused attention on a trade that smuggles up to 100,000 Chinese abroad each year.

People from China's southeast have for centuries gone abroad to seek their fortunes. Looser social controls in the past two decades have unleashed a flood of emigration. But rising foreign resistance to immigration has led migrants to resort to smuggling and increasingly risky methods. *AP*

THAI workers lower the body of a victim, wrapped with white cloth, killed when two consecutive explosions ripped through a business area in downtown Bangkok, Jan 19. AP

Survivors desert Colombia village after massacre of 24 by rightists

CHENGUE, Colombia—Two-days ago this village in the rolling hills of northern Colombia was a thriving community. Children played soccer in the streets and farmers tended crops of corn and coffee.

But on Wednesday about 100 right-wing paramilitary fighters killed 24 men in the village with machetes before burning homes and carrying nine others off as hostages. A day later the village was deserted, with a handful of families preparing to leave as homes and shops smoldered around them.

"They destroyed my house," said Meredith Oviedo, standing with her two children near a pile of ashes that was once her home. "But at least God left me my family."

The group that attacked this village of 1,200 residents in Sucre state was retaliating for the capture of a paramilitary commander by police on Jan. 12, said Juan Zambora, spokesperson for the National Armada, whose soldiers were fighting with the rightist killers outside the hills of Chengue.

The attack is the latest in a wave of rightist terror that has left 154 dead this month and stunned a battle-hardened population accustomed to 36-years of armed conflict that kills some 3,000 a year, mostly unarmed civilians like those in Chengue.

The leader of the feared paramilitary organization—the United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia, or AUC—vowed Thursday to continue his campaign of terror until rival leftist guerrillas call an end to their insurrection.

"Those who are dying are primarily subversives disguised as civilians," said AUC leader Carlos Castano, in an e-mail sent to a local newspaper in Medellin, the nation's second-largest city.

Residents near Chengue were fleeing the region Thursday, and authorities feared more carnage was imminent. In February, suspected paramilitary groups attacked the nearby town of Ovejas, about 16 km southeast of Chengue, beheading about 20 people. But Wednesday's attack was worse.

About 100 paramilitary members entered the sleepy village before dawn Wednesday, yelling and kicking in doors. Most of the villagers hid.

When the cries for help and the screams of men being butchered with machetes subsided three hours later, families emerged to scenes of mayhem: Some 30 homes ablaze, a pile of 24 corpses, and at least nine missing—carried off by the killers into the nearby hills.

A day later blood stained the streets and smoke rose from the ashes where homes and shops once stood. A message scrawled on the side of a house read: "Get Out Marxist Communist Guerrillas!" *AP*

4 killed, 13 injured in Bangkok explosion

BANGKOK—Two consecutive explosions ripped through a business area in downtown Bangkok Friday, killing four people and gutting two buildings, witnesses and police said.

At least 13 people were injured, many of them commuters waiting at a bus stop in the crowded Pratunam neighborhood near a luxury hotel, police and hospital officials said.

Police and rescue workers had earlier reported eight deaths but police spokesperson Maj. Gen. Pongsapat Pongcharoen later lowered the toll, saying four people who were thought dead were found to have signs of life. They were taken to a hospital in critical condition, he said.

The cause of the explosion was not immediately known but investigations will focus on a leaking cooking gas bottle in a roadside food stall, Pongsapat said.

He said the food stall owner, Charoen Lamduan, was killed in the explosion. Three others died in an electronics shop—its 61-year-old owner, her 33-year-old son and a female worker in her 30s.

All died of smoke inhalation when their shop caught fire from the explosion. Fire also spread to an adjacent four-story spectacles shop, where firefighters initially reported they had located four bodies. But when the fire was put out the four people were found to be barely alive, Pongsapat said. *AP*

Barak convenes 'Peace Cabinet'

JERUSALEM—Israel's Prime Minister Ehud Barak was convening his "Peace Cabinet" Friday to respond to the Palestinian offer of marathon peace talks in Egypt, but negotiations were overshadowed by the brutal killing of an Israeli youth in the West Bank.

Talks at the Red Sea resort of Taba were proposed by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, who met on Wednesday in Egypt with Israel's Foreign Minister Shlomo Ben-Ami.

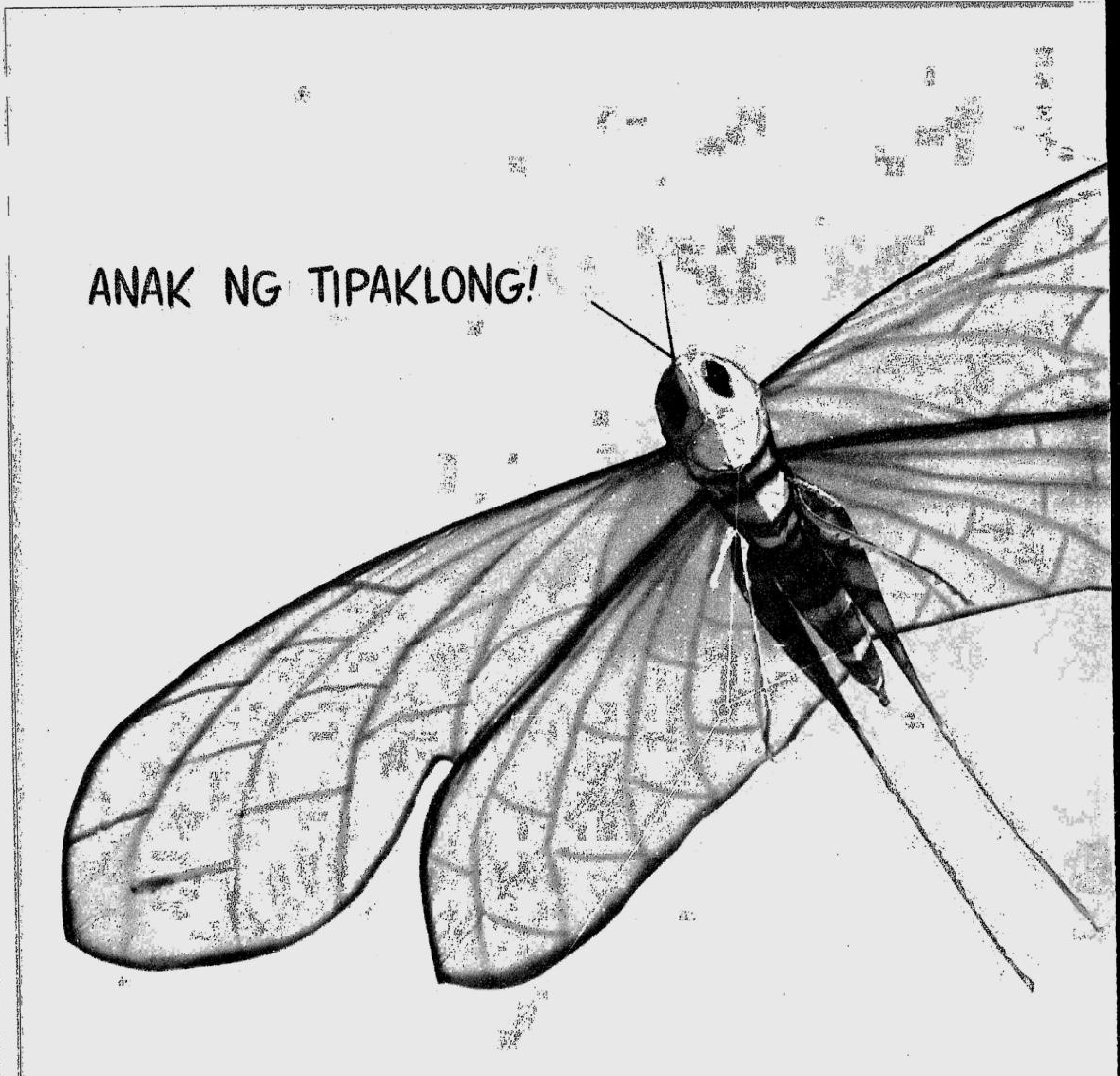
Palestinian parliament speaker Ahmed Qureia said they would involve "marathon 10-day negotiations . . . beginning next week, to see if we can bridge the gaps that still remain on most of the issues."

Qureia led a Palestinian team, which met with the Israelis for about three hours in Tel .Aviv Thursday. The sides described the talks as serious and deep. Qureia said they focused on "issues of land and Jerusalem (discussed) with more concentration."

It was not clear, however, whether Israel would accept the Taba offer and in what format, with Barak sounding increasingly pessimistic about the chances to achieve some breakthrough before the Israeli elections on Feb. 6.

"We shall do everything possible in order to have a peace agreement before the elections or after them. I don't believe there's a real chance of reaching an agreement before the ballot but we shall continue to seek an accord after it," Barak told high school students in Tel Aviv.

Still, Israeli reports said there was serious pressure on Barak within the top-level Peace Cabinet to accept Arafat's offer, especially from Israel's elder statesman Shimon Peres. *AP*


ANAK NG TIPAKLONG!

Clinton bids US farewell, advises Bush

WASHINGTON—Two days before leaving office, Bill Clinton thanked fellow Americans Thursday for a presidency likely to be remembered as much for the sex-and-lies flap that nearly cost him the White House as for historic prosperity.

"I am profoundly grateful to you for twice giving me the honor to serve," he said in his last official televised address from the Oval Office, calling his time at the nation's helm "an era of great American renewal."

"In the years ahead, I will never hold a position higher or a covenant more sacred than that of president . . . But there is no title I will wear more proudly than that of citizen," he stressed.

Clinton wished President-elect George W. Bush well and emphasized that the incoming administration must not pare down Washington's global role, declaring "in our times, America cannot and must not disentangle itself from the world."

He did not mention the Monica Lewinsky affair, which led the House of Representatives in 1998 to make him the first elected president ever impeached and resulted in his Senate acquittal in early 1999.

But he touted his tenure's unprecedented economic growth, with 22 million new jobs, the lowest unemployment in 30 years and record home ownership, as well as health care and education initiatives and the sharp drop in crime.

"I'm very grateful to be able to turn over the reins of leadership to a new president, with America in such a strong position to meet the challenges of the future," he emphasized.

The outgoing leader, whose last speech to the nation will be his weekly radio address on Saturday, shed no light on his future plans but passed his family's good wishes—as well as some unsolicited advice—to Bush.

"Hillary, Chelsea and I join all Americans in wishing our very best to the next president, George W. Bush, to his family and his administration in meeting these challenges and in leading freedom's march in this new century," he said.

Clinton outlined "three thoughts about our future" that at times sounded like veiled criticisms of policies outlined by Bush—whose father, ex-president George Bush, the Democrat defeated in 1992.

First, he urged fiscal responsibility; warned the United States must keep its global leadership role, saying: "America's security and prosperity require us to continue to lead in the world;" continued inclusiveness and tolerance of all groups regardless of race, creed, gender, sexual orientation or immigrant status.

AFP

PRESIDENT Clinton gathers his speech moments after delivering his farewell address to the nation from the Oval Office in Washington, DC, Jan. 18. Clinton thanked the country for his eight years in office and wished president-elect George Bush well. REUTERS

Congo gov't confirms Kabila death

KINSHASA—President Laurent Kabila of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) died Thursday, two days after being shot at his presidential palace in Kinshasa, officials said here as his son pressed ahead with governing the war-wracked central African nation.

"The Democratic Republic of Congo is in mourning and the government of national salvation has the deep pain and the unhappy task of announcing the death of president Laurent-Desire Kabila today, Thursday, Jan. 18, at 10 a.m.," government spokesperson and Information Minister Dominique Sakombi said.

The declaration ended two days of confusion created by Western and African states saying they believed Kabila was dead and Kinshasa officially denying that was so.

Kabila's body is on Saturday to be flown back from Zimbabwe, where he had been taken for medical treatment, the DRC ambassador to Harare, Kikaya Bin Karubi, said.

The passing of Kabila, an African strongman who developed a pariah status on the international stage, thrust the mineral-rich country into a new uncertainty after three and a half years of brutal civil war and nearly four decades of predatory rule under dictator Mobutu Sese Seko.

Sakombi did not clarify the circumstances of Kabila's shooting, saying only that the president had been victim of an "attack."

Reports following the incident suggested Kabila was hit by several bullets after a row erupted between him and several of his generals over their handling of the protracted war involving at least half a dozen African nations. *AFP*

Rescuers find no sign of peasants in volcano

SAN SALVADOR—Rescuers climbed out of a 1,893-meter volcano after an unsuccessful search for eight peasants believed to have fallen into the crater when part of its rim collapsed in a devastating earthquake that killed at least 687 people.

Rescuers were lowered into the crater Wednesday and Thursday after workers at a nearby television tower reported hearing screams coming from below. However, they climbed out later Thursday after finding no sign of the peasants.

Landslides blocked access to much of the crater, and the rescuers were afraid that an extensive search would be too risky.

Six Salvadoran tourists were rescued from inside the volcano's crater on Sunday, but eight peasants who used the area to grow corn, cilantro and flowers had been presumed dead after the quake toppled the area where they cultivated their crops.

The reports of screams from within prompted a new search, but officials were doubtful they would find anything. Maj. Jose Morano, who coordinated the rescue effort, said echoes may have been mistaken for shouts.

The death toll—or the number of bodies recovered—in Saturday's magnitude-7.6 quake has leveled off at 687 people, including six in Guatemala. The government has stopped releasing figures on the number of people missing, saying previous tallies of hundreds of disappeared may have been exaggerated.

Also Thursday, friends and family buried 22-year-old musician Sergio Moreno, who died two days after he was pulled from a mountain of dirt that collapsed on a San Salvador suburb.

Moreno, rescued Sunday after he called for help on his cellular phone, was the last survivor to be found in the destroyed, middle-class neighborhood, where more than half of the earthquake's dead were found. He had been trapped for more than 30 hours under a pile of cinder blocks.

As the gruesome task of searching for bodies waned, attention turned to caring for the nearly 46,000 people evacuated from their homes. *AP*

Bush to convince Putin on missile defense plan

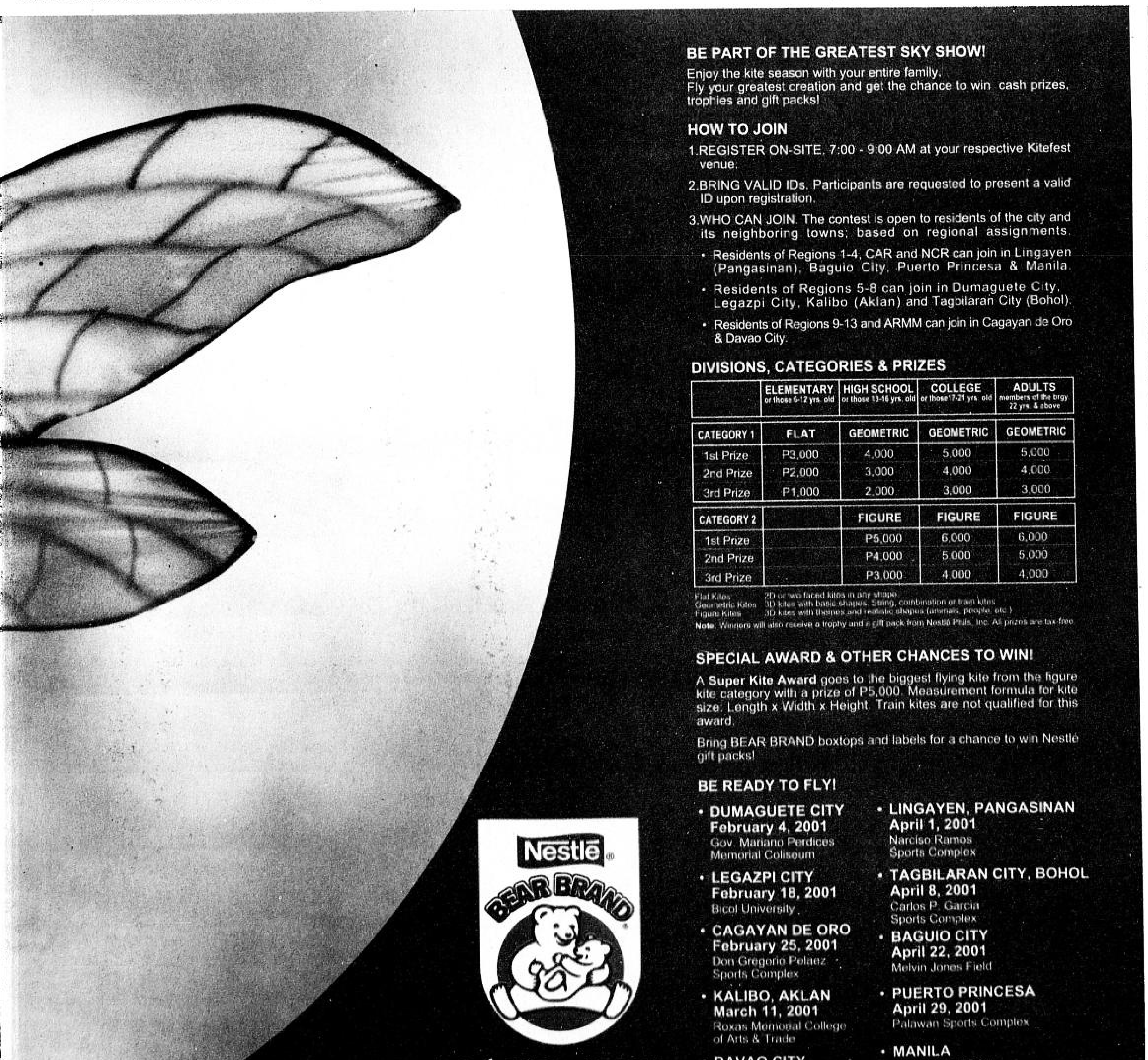
WASHINGTON—President-elect George W. Bush says he is confident that he can persuade Russian President Vladimir Putin as well as European allies of the wisdom of allowing the United States to move ahead with a national missile defense system.

In a wide-ranging interview with The Associated Press on the first day of his three-day inauguration celebration, Bush said Thursday that he was eager to begin meetings, especially with Putin. He said his task would be made easier, if he could just "look them in the eye."

"Russia needs to know that development of a defensive system is not aimed to create a world in which we're the sole power. It's aimed to create a stable world so no one can point a weapon at us, our friends or Russia herself," Bush said.

He said that he had not talked to Putin yet, although he had received a letter from the Russian leader congratulating him on his victory.

"I want to make the case to Mr. Putin himself. And I don't know when that's going to be," Bush said. The program, to defend the nation against incoming ballistic missiles, has drawn opposition from both China and Russia, which views it as a violation of the landmark 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty. *AP*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  April 1, 2001
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PINOCHET

Pinochet suffers dementia

SANTIAGO—Former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet suffers from "light to moderate" dementia, one of the neurologists who prepared the official report on his health said Thursday.

Neurologist Jorge Ferrer said the eight doctors had unanimously agreed on the diagnosis in a report to Judge Juan Guzman, who is coordinating more than 200 lawsuits against Pinochet for alleged human-rights abuses during his 17-year regime.

Pinochet, 85, is scheduled to appear in court Tuesday for questioning about the summary executions of some 75 political opponents, carried out by a military squad known as the "Caravan of Death," a month after the bloody September 1973 coup that brought Pinochet to power.

The doctors' report will play a role in determining the ailing leader's fitness to stand trial if criminal charges are filed.

Ferrer, a neurologist who represented the defense on the medical team, said after some debate, "there was unanimous agreement" that Pinochet suffers from "light to moderate" dementia.

Another neurologist, Luis Fornazzari, who represented the prosecution, said Monday that Chile's ex-strongman suffers from "slight to moderate subcortical vascular dementia," which would not prevent him from standing trial. *AFP*

Rallies turn to street dancing

Defections fire up protests in provinces

WHAT started as indignation rallies erupted into street dancing in many parts of the country after Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado, Chief of Staff Gen. Angelo Reyes and other top military officials withdrew their support from President Estrada.

In Cebu City, a deafening cheer from some 20,000 rally participants erupted after organizers announced the defection of Mercado, Reyes and other generals.

"My God, this is just like Edsa," said a crying Cebuana demonstrator.

In Iloilo City, Gov. Arthur Defensor, the cousin of Sen. Miriam Defensor, jumped up and down, danced and hugged his fellow protesters when news of the defection reached them.

Defensor, who led the indignation rally at the Rotary Amphitheater beside the Capitol building, was grinning from ear to ear but crying at the same time when he announced that his cousin, Maj. Gen. Benjamin Defensor, Air Force commanding general, defected to the opposition.

It was this announcement that brought pandemonium among some 12,000 rally participants who had spilled out of the amphitheater.

Unstoppable

"Nothing can stop the people now to press for his (Estrada's) immediate departure from office," said a jubilant Defensor.

"You can fool some of the people some of the time but you can't fool all of them all of the time," Defensor added.

Iloilo Rep. Raul Gonzalez, who was also in the rally, considered the defection of Reyes, Mercado and the generals as an act of "divine intervention."

There was also dancing in the streets in Baguio City and Dagupan City late yesterday afternoon when protesters learned that many Cabinet members and leaders of the Armed Forces had withdrawn their support for embattled President Estrada.

Some 1,500 students, professionals and government employees who participated in the protest march on Session Road here were jubilant on hearing the defections of most of Mr. Estrada's trusted aides in government and the military.

At their regular flag retreat ceremony at 4:30 p.m., cadets at the Philippine Military Academy here cheered on learning that Armed Forces chief of staff, Gen. Angelo Reyes, had thrown his support to the anti-Estrada forces.

'The end is near'

"The end is near," declared a jubilant Senator Franklin Drilon as news of defections of key Estrada officials drew wild cheers from 80,000 people gathered at the Bacolod public plaza yesterday afternoon.

"He (Estrada) is finished," declared Bacolod Bishop Emeritus Antonio Fortich as he called on the people to continue their protests until the pressure would make it impossible for the President not to step down from office.

Kabankalan Bishop Vicente Navarra, also the papal administrator of the Diocese of Bacolod, also called on all police and military officers in the country to join their generals who have withdrawn their support from President Estrada.

"After today we will still continue with the prayer vigils, the ringing of church bells, the caravans and noise barrages and various forms protests until the President steps down," Navarra said.

Bacolod Vice Mayor Joy Valdez declared the "the city of Bacolod is an Erapless city. We no longer recognize Erap as the President of the Philippines."

Some 5,000 protesters who had joined an indignation rally at Baguio's people's park lustily cheered when they learned that top military and government officials had abandoned Mr. Estrada.

Dancing in Dagupan

In Dagupan City, more than 5,000 students, workers, officials and religious leaders danced in jubilation at the city plaza immediately after the news of the mass defection broke out.

The protesters, led by Catholic priests who earlier formed a human chain at the city's main thoroughfare, shouted and cheered for several minutes when it was announced that Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado, Gen. Angelo Reyes, AFP chief of staff, and other top police and military officials supported the anti-Estrada rally in Edsa.

"This is a big boost to the anti-Estrada ralliers," said Mayor Alipio Fernandez Jr., president of the League of Cities.

Fernandez withdrew his support from the President after 11 senators voted against the opening of the second envelope at the Senate impeachment trial on Tuesday.

In Pampanga, vendors at the old San Fernando market banged cans and pots, danced on the streets and waved clothes they were selling as Mercado and the generals announced their defection.

Militants manning the protest center of the Coalition for the Ouster of Erap cried and embraced each other.

At the Sto. Rosario Church in Angeles City, centuries-old bells were pealed to announce the initial victory at Edsa.

'This is it'

"This is it! I am very, very happy. We worked for this change. We expect a new, vibrant, pro-people leadership now," said Rene Romero, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry Northern Luzon chapter president as he jumped in jubilation.

Fr. Deo Galang of the Social Action Center of Pampanga said: "This is God's intervention. Real power lies in the people."

In Bulacan, Bulakeños who were glued to their television sets were teary-eyed when they saw top military, police and government officials at the anti-Estrada rally in Edsa.

Fr. Anacleto Ignacio, secretary general of Bagong Alyansang Makabayan in Bulacan, said they had long wanted Reyes and Mercado to withdraw their support to President Estrada as it symbolized the start of the President's downfall.

"They are heroes who showed love for the country," said Bulacan Gov. Josefina de la Cruz.

In San Fernando City, there was great jubilation from ralliers who had gathered at a prayer vigil-rally at the city plaza to demand the President's resignation.

La Union Gov. Justo Orros Jr. said he was "very happy" that a peaceful solution to the political crisis had been found.

'Better Philippines'

"We hope that these developments will result in a better Philippines," said lawyer Rodolfo Yabes, one of the rally organizers.

At Fort Del Pilar in Baguio City, Philippine Military Academy cadets cheered on learning that Reyes had thrown his support to the anti-Estrada forces.

"I immediately coordinated with PMA superintendent (Air Force Maj. Gen. Manuel) Carranza 15 minutes after I heard on television General Reyes declare he was leaving President Estrada. I officially declared the PMA's withdrawal (of support for President Estrada) a few minutes later at our flag retreat," said Brig. Gen. Eduardo Purificacion, PMA assistant superintendent.

Purificacion announced Reyes' withdrawal during the cadets' regular flag retreat ceremony at 4:30 p.m.

"The cadets clapped— (But I do not know) if that meant they were (prepared to defect from Mr. Estrada themselves). I made the declaration because the PMA wants to end this political crisis. We do not want to see a bloody confrontation . . ." he said.

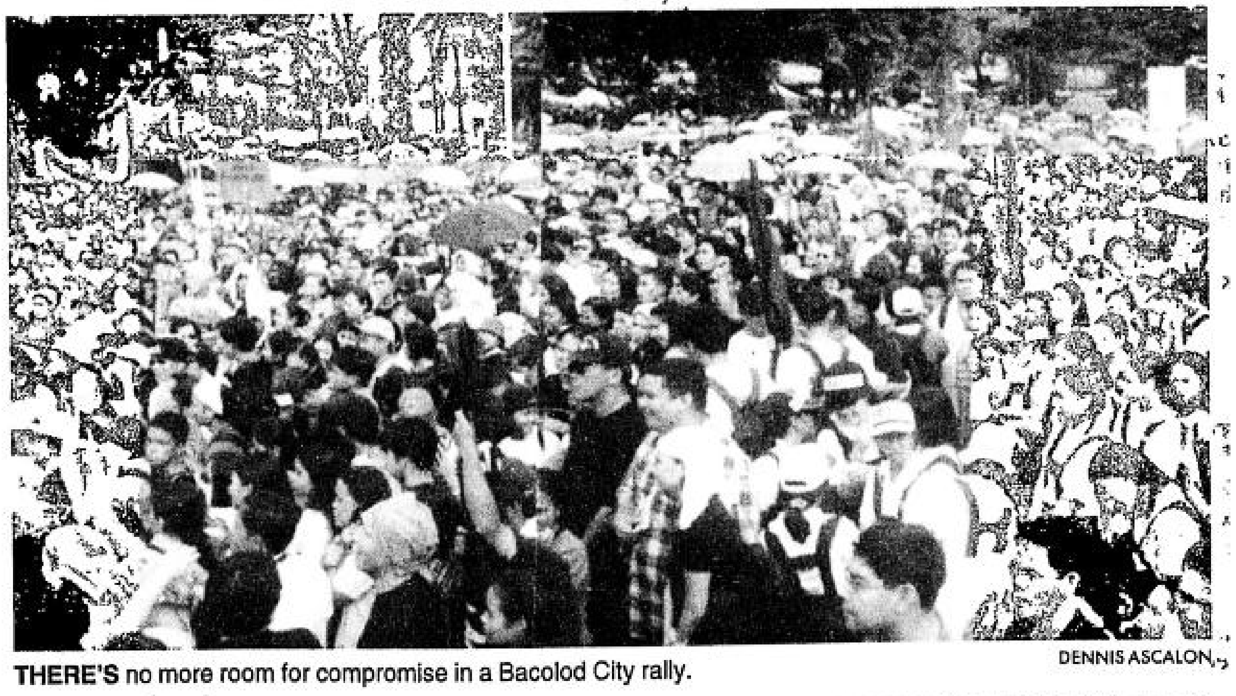
In Isabela, Maj. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, 5th Infantry Battalion chief, expressed full support for Mercado and Reyes, saying he and his men would rally behind them "as long as the cause is for the Filipino people."

Soldiers of the 5th ID are securing the Army posts, government installations, airports and transmission lines on a 24-hour basis. ***Reports from Rolando Fernandez, Vincent Cabreza, Desiree Caluza; Yolanda Fuertes, Gobleth Moulic, Villamor Visaya, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; Julie Alipala-Inot, Jowel Canuday, Nico Alconaba, Carolyn Arguillas, Froilan Gallardo and Bobby Timonera, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Edra Benedicto, Connie Fernandez, Raj Padilla, Carla Gomez and Rufino Gonzalez, PDI Visayas Bureau***

Resign
Impeach ERAP
Patalsikin

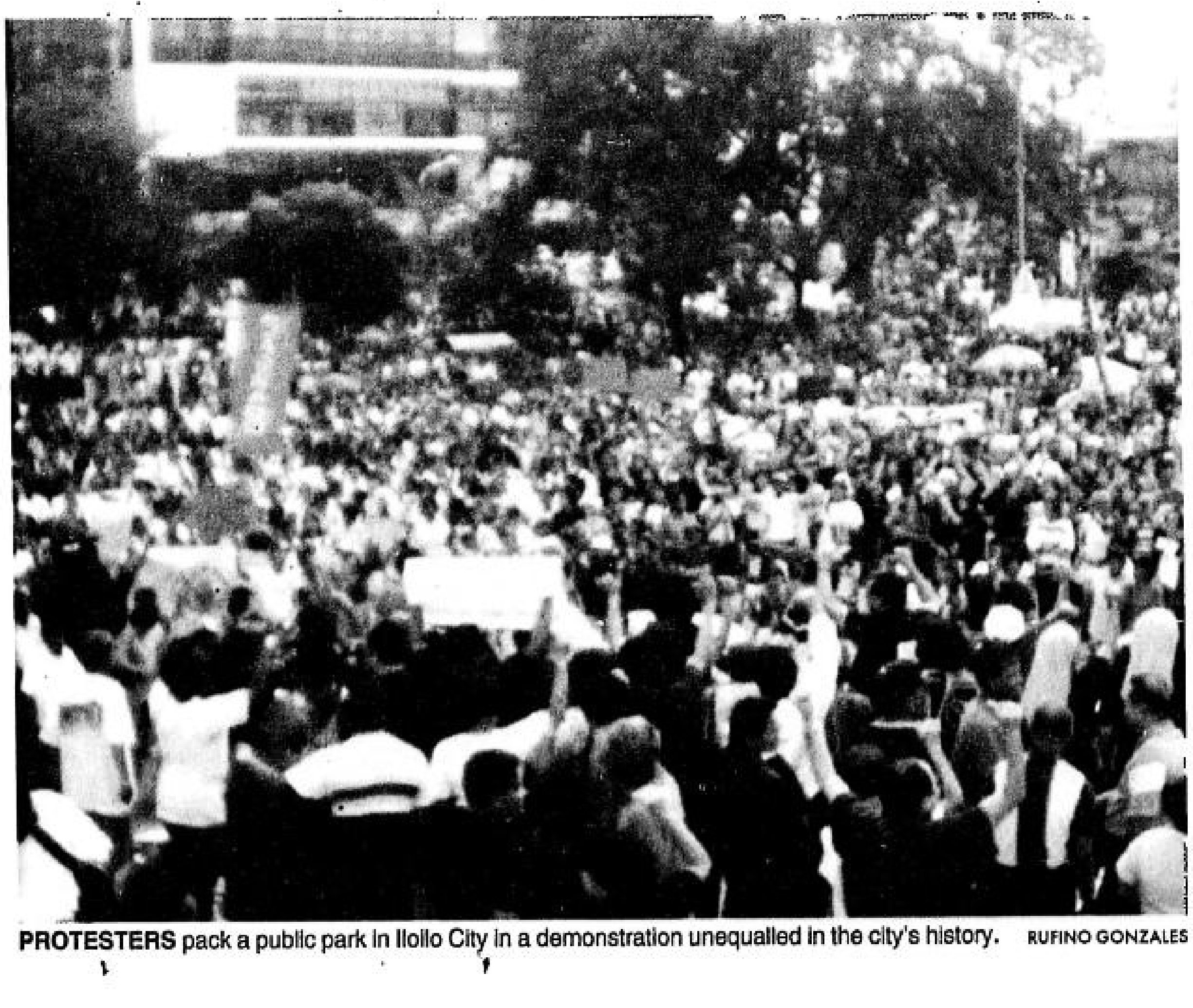
CANDLES continue to light the way for demonstrators in Baguio City.

TOOTS SOBERANO



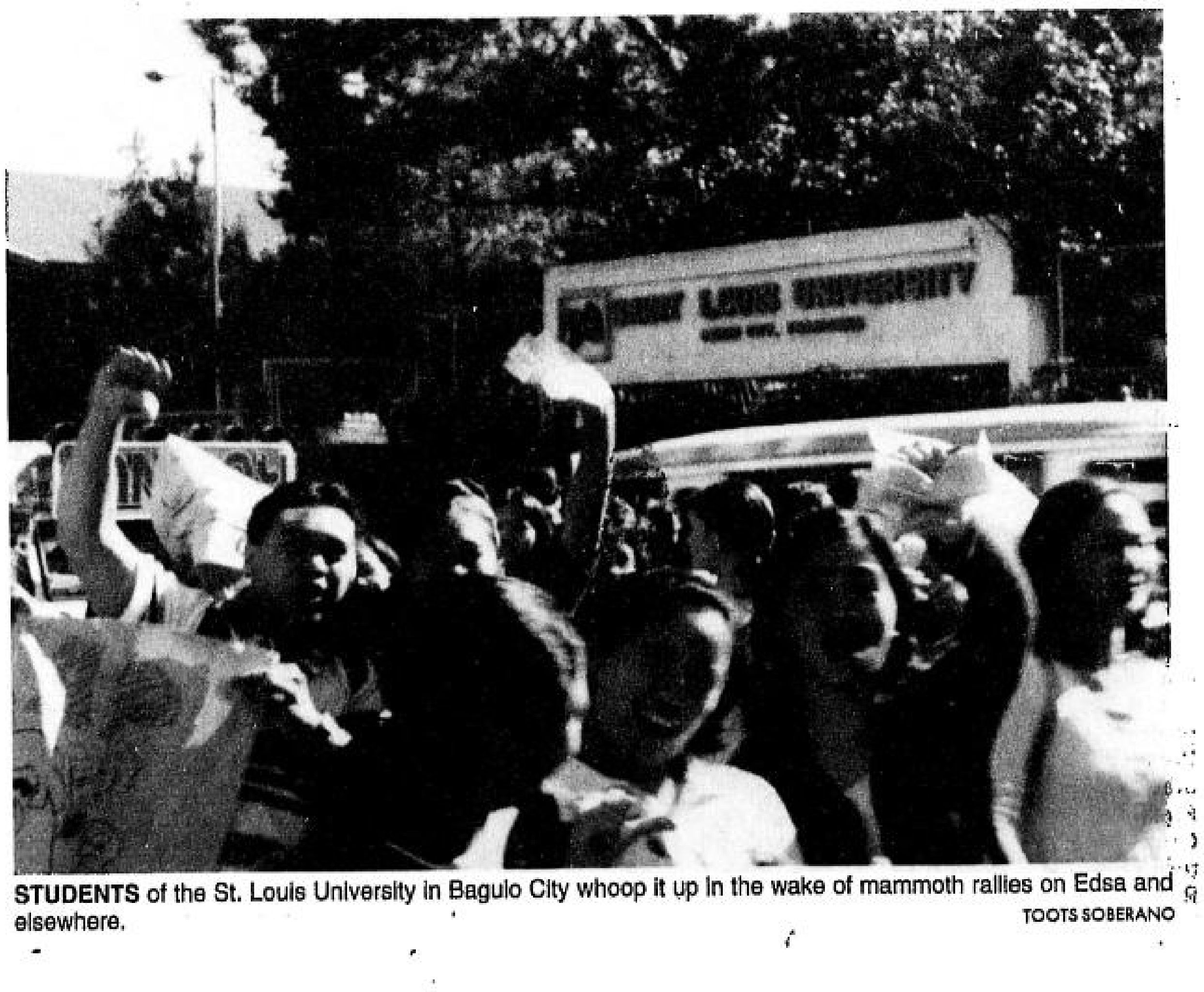
THERE'S no more room for compromise in a Bacolod City rally.

DENNIS ASCALON



PROTESTERS pack a public park in Iloilo City in a demonstration unequalled in the city's history.

RUFINO GONZALES



STUDENTS of the St. Louis University in Baguio City whoop it up in the wake of mammoth rallies on Edsa and elsewhere.

TOOTS SOBERANO

Antique court bans garbage dumping on Semirara Island

By Hazel Villa
PDI Visayas Bureau

PROTESTERS keep up the fight against plans to transform Semirara Island into a dump and spare no effort in making sure the plan doesn't push through. HAZEL VILLA

SAN JOSE, Antique—The Regional Trial Court in Antique has prohibited the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources from dumping garbage on Semirara Island.

Judge Sylvia Jurao of the Antique RTC issued a preliminary injunction against the landfill project on the island on Wednesday, a day before a 20-day restraining order issued by the court expired.

Jurao said the preliminary injunction was issued to "prevent grave injustice and irreparable injury" to residents near the planned dump.

It came after the United Antiqueños raised in their petition their constitutional right to a healthy and balanced environment.

She also ordered the United Antiqueños to pay an injunction bond of P200,000 while the merits of the preliminary injunction were being heard. The judge has yet to set the hearing for the permanent injunction.

Despite the court's order, the people of Semirara were not letting their guards down.

They will continue their vigil at the Caluya Sub-Station on the island, said Henry Frangue, Sangguniang Kabataan municipal federation president of Caluya.

Frangue said his mother, Caluya Mayor Nikita Frangue, told him Thursday that Semirara residents do not believe the sanitary landfill project would be stopped because the construction of the landfill in Sitio Tungao was still ongoing as of early morning yesterday.

"The fear of the people is that DMCI Holdings Inc. will let the issue die down and proceed with the project. DMCI seems to be optimistic because they are still doing construction work by building a pier at (the) Tungao Point," said Frangue.

Tungao Point is in the northern part of Semirara Island beside the Panian Pit, which is being mined by Semirara Coal Corp., a subsidiary of DMCI Holdings Inc.

DMCI, together with R-II Builders, were supposed to operate an "Interim Integrated Sanitary Landfill Project" beside the Panian Pit.

Jurao noted that the Local Government Code of 1991 was violated because there was no prior consultation among the affected parties and prior approval of the Sanggunian concerned.

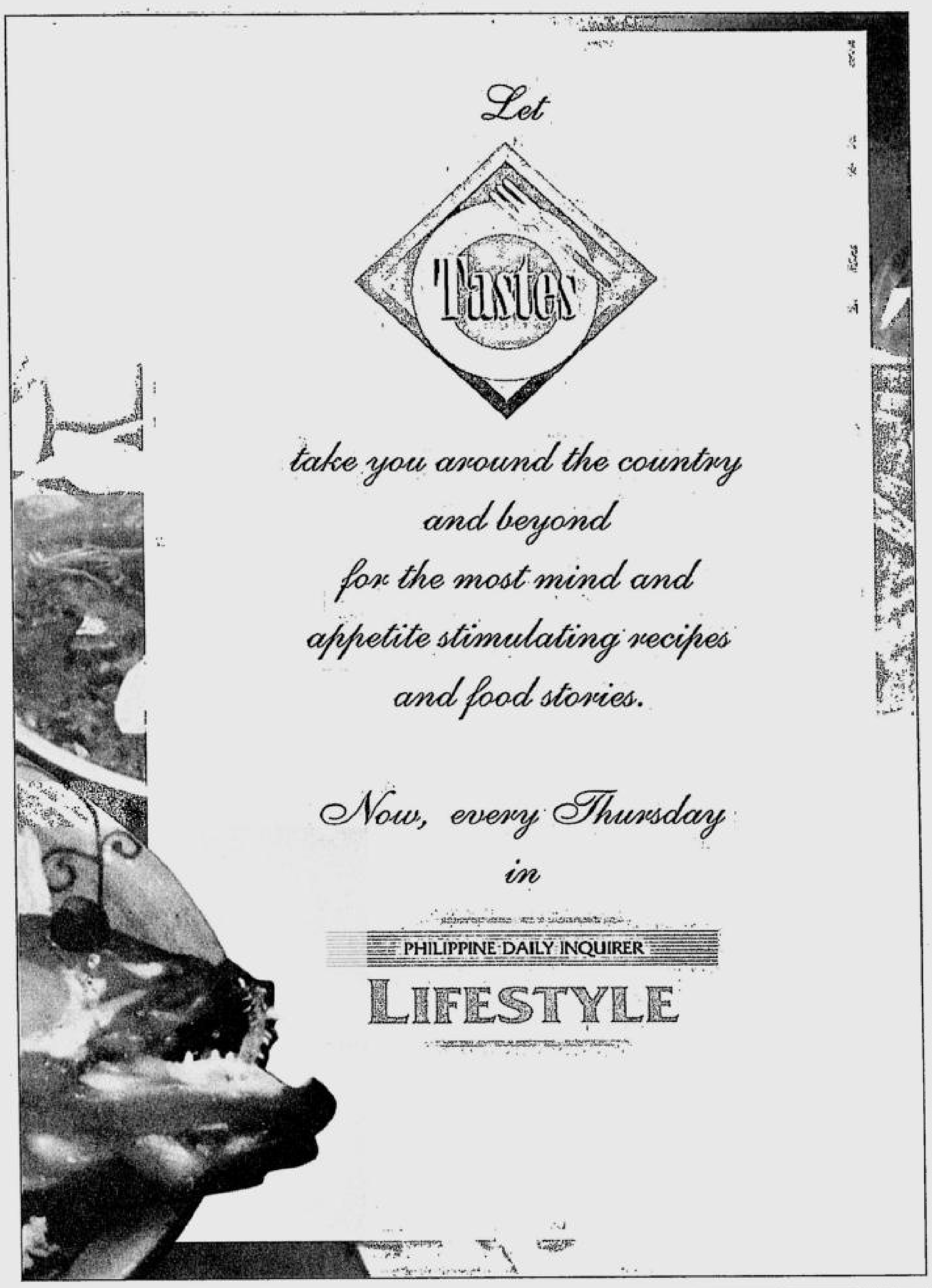
Also, she said, "there is no clear showing that the intended dumping of garbage on Semirara Island may be classified as a national government infrastructure project or service contract."

Jurao also wrote in her order that "the dumping of garbage will also destroy and eradicate the marine and aquatic life in Antique and the neighboring provinces."

She said the DENR and the MMDA had violated provisions in the Philippine Environmental Code, such as their failure to get an Environmental Compliance Certificate for the project.

The code, she said, also provides that "no landfill or work locations shall be located along any shore or coastline or along the banks, rivers, or streams, and lakes throughout their entire length."

"It is worthy to note that Caluya, Antique, has been declared as a marine turtle sanctuary and therefore an environmentally critical area which may not be subjected to exploitation," Jurao wrote.



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ROUNDUP

5 Benguet criminals arrested

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—Police arrested five of the most wanted criminals here in separate operations last month. Junjun Daplian, Laurel Palasi, Thomas Pacio, Joseph Sab-it and Wilfredo Tomas had standing warrants of arrest for rape, illegal gambling and robbery.

Alfred Dizon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Cordi women vs Estrada

BAGUIO CITY—Cordillera women have formed a multi-sectoral organization in support of the nationwide clamor to oust President Estrada from power. Their battlecry is "Women unite now, we have nothing to lose but Erap." The group was initiated by Innabuyog-Cordillera, the largest women federation in the region.

Alfred Dizon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

1st public calling station installed

SAN MIGUEL, Catanduanes—A satellite-based public calling office (PCO) launched on Jan. 9 by SMART Communications Inc. here is expected to connect the typhoon-ravaged island province with the rest of the country and the world. The PCO is located in this remote area in the easternmost part of the province some 13 kilometers northeast of the capital town of Virac and operated by a retail store owner with two booths inside the store. Catanduanes has one of the lowest telephone densities in the country with barely one telephone per 100 persons.

Roly Embile, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Paete handicrafts industry down

PAETE, Laguna—The recent bombings in Metro Manila and elsewhere have aggravated the already plummeting sales of the handicraft industry here by scaring away foreign buyers, the town's chief executive said. Mayor Emmanuel Cadayona said the recent bombings had caused the deferment of $300,000 worth of initial handicraft business agreements, which were supposed to be signed recently by a local entrepreneur with a foreign investor. "Another initial investment agreement with a foreign investor worth $50,000 was unfortunately stalled due to the bombings," Cadayona said.

Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

9 militiamen hurt in ambush

COTABATO CITY—Nine militiamen were wounded when ambushed by suspected Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) rebels in Carmen, North Cotabato on Tuesday, the military here said.

Maj. Julieto Ando, 6th Infantry Division spokesperson, said the victims were on board a truck heading toward the poblacion of Carmen when some 30 MILF fighters fired two rocket-propelled grenades and automatic rifles at 2 p.m. Tuesday. A brief firefight ensued, forcing the suspected rebels to flee. In another incident in Arakan town, a man and his six-month-old son were hurt when armed men ambushed them. Edgar Alojado, his wife and baby were on a motorcycle when ambushed. The suspects also allegedly tossed a hand grenade when Alojado brought his motorcycle to a ditch.

Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau

New center for elderly to open

FIRST Lady Luisa "Loi" Ejercito would be the guest of honor and principal speaker at the inauguration and blessing of the Tahanang Mapagpala II, a home for the elderly in Malolos, Bulacan on Jan. 20. "We're honored to have the First Lady, a social activist, as our distinguished guest," said Susan Ople, former president of the Senate Spouses Foundation Inc. and chair of the special projects committee. Lourdes Pimentel, wife of resigned Senate President Aquilino Pimentel and head of the spouses' group, said other guests at the home for the aged's inauguration are Senate President Protempore Blas Ople and Bulacan Gov. Josie de la Cruz. After the blessing, Mrs. Pimentel and De la Cruz would turn over the center to the Diocese of Malolos headed by Bishop Rolando Tria Tirona.

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17 January 2001

AKO AY LASALYANO TAPAT NA PILIPINO TUNAY NA KRISTYANO

THE LINE IS DRAWN, OUST ERAP!

Now it is all clear. Erap will neither resign nor be convicted.

Having clearly lost the moral ascendancy to govern, the man is obviously thick-headed and bereft of any shade of honor. As he has willfully violated the oath that he has taken, it would be extremely naïve on our part to believe that such an inutile individual would do what is honorable — resign.

Conviction would be a miracle. The lines have been drawn. In deciding to block the prosecutors' effort at uncovering the truth about Erap's ill-gotten wealth, eleven senator-judges have finally shown their true colors and exposed the impeachment hearings for what they truly are: an attempt to disguise the shameless rapacity of a wolf in the sheep's clothing of the judicial process. The senator-judges who voted against making public the documents have thereby rendered themselves irrelevant and immaterial to our people and to the future of our presently troubled nation.

Given the impossibility of resignation and the willful subversion of the constitutional process of impeachment, the only way left to solve the turmoil that engulfs us at present is to OUST ERAP! To do this, we have our past experience to work on. In the struggle against a dictator, our people struggled for years building and expanding the organizations that advocated social change and eventually converging at EDSA in 1986 to forcefully communicate the general disgust over the loathed regime's machinations during the snap elections. Through collective action and prayers, we succeeded. The dictator was forced out. We were jubilant.

Today, we are called upon to transcend our fears and muster the same strength to pressure Erap out of Malacañang. We have seen examples of the selflessness exhibited by witnesses and senator-judges, most recently the Senate President, Aquilino "Nene" Pimentel. His act of heroism in resigning provides a new standard for integrity and commitment to the public good. We are called upon to do likewise. In response to this, we, the members of the Lasallian Family in the Philippines, commit ourselves to participate in concerted, peaceful, prayerful, and sustained mass actions to compel Erap to step down.

Recognizing that the ills in our society go beyond Erap, we commit ourselves to address, as far as we are able, the other structural problems chiefly indicated by various forms of deprivation. With the Lasallian Family predominantly involved in the education of the young, we vow ourselves to the enhancement of civic-spiritedness among all our members — our Lasallian partners, students, parents, alumni, and De La Salle Brothers. In nurturing such civic-spiritedness, we hope to progressively contribute to the elimination of the complacency that has contributed to this cycle of impoverishment in our politics and society.

The immediate call we make is to OUST ERAP! Beyond this, we vow to be even more active partners in bringing about positive social change.

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INQUIRER Visayas
JUN BANDAYREL, Editor ▣ EDRALYN L. BENEDICTO, Bureau Chief

Bishop Vidal: 'Respect my stand'

BY CONNIE FERNANDEZ
Cebu City

CEBU Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal has opted to stay neutral despite pressure for him to take a definitive stand in the growing clamor to oust President Estrada.

Vidal, widely known to be close to the President, told a press conference here on Thursday that he hoped his flock in Cebu would respect his decision.

When asked why he refused to join anti-Estrada rallies, the prelate replied: "It's personal."

Vidal later admitted in an interview with the INQUIRER that it would be difficult for him to be seen in anti-Estrada rallies because "If I will be visible at once in any of these rallies, I cannot anymore approach him (the President)."

"They (anti-Estrada groups) should free me from all these (pressure to take a definitive stand) so I can work for something else like (the) spiritual renewal (of the President) and other things that are needed," Vidal said.

Among the "things" that Vidal said are needed to be done with the help of Estrada is a water project of Cebu. The President earlier promised to provide P10 million for a study of and rehabilitation of the Cebu watershed.

With his access to the President, Vidal has been asked by some groups in Cebu to approach President Estrada to find solutions to Cebu's water problems.

Vidal said he would change his position if "my own perception and the perception of other groups will tell me that there is . . . danger now if nothing is . . . done."

Vidal has been the central figure in protest actions here—from opposition against Charter change to anti-illegal drug rallies.

But lately, Vidal has been criticized because of his failure to come up with a definitive stand on calls for Estrada's resignation.

Minority

Eight Catholic bishops in the Visayas have already demanded for Mr. Estrada's ouster from office.

They are Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo (Iloilo), Palo Archbishop Pablo Dean (Leyte), Maasin Bishop Cresencio Cantillas (Southern Leyte), Capiz Archbishop Onesimo Gordonello, Bacolod and Kabankalan Bishop Vicente Navarra (Negros Occidental), Antique Bishop Raul Quimbo Maritez, Aklan Bishop Gabriel Reyes and Tagbilaran Bishop Leopoldo Tumulak (Bohol).

Bishop Emeritus Antonio Fortich of Bacolod, a known figure in the anti-Marcos protest actions, has also demanded the President's resignation.

But Vidal said his decision to stay neutral should be respected.

"I am trying my best to respect decisions done by groups. And I don't like to threaten them with my own stand. I have my own stand," Vidal said.

He said he would not stop priests under the Cebu Archdiocese from attending anti-Estrada rallies provided that they inform him ahead of time.

Vidal said he and the Presbyteral Council of the Archdiocese of Cebu also issued "guidelines" for the people who have already made up their minds on the conflict.

He said this is in accordance with the mandate of the Second Plenary Council of the Philippines, which states that lay people should be in the forefront in the area of politics.

"We were supposed to give guidelines to help them (follow) the right direction. That's the only thing," he said.

Vidal's and that of the Presbyteral Council's position was embodied in a statement distributed before the start of the press conference.

The statement said that those who still believe in the impeachment process should "continue to challenge . . . members of Congress to rise above partisan interests and personal considerations and remind them once again of their sworn responsibility to respect our people."

Those who believe that the continuation of the impeachment process would be an exercise in futility, the statement said, must "respect the decision others have chosen as you pursue your own course of action."

It also reminded the anti-Estrada groups to be guided by the principle of active non-violence when joining protest actions and to be inspired by the call "to promote and defend the moral truth during prayer-vigils, fasting and Eucharistic celebrations."

Vidal and the council also appealed to the police and military to recognize and respect always "the quest for truth and the people's freedom of expression and assembly."

My stand'

"(The statement) is my stand now. And so we are trying to ask the people to respect any decision others have made . . . That's what we're asking," Vidal said.

"I would not be able to express these two points if I were on the other side alone. It would be difficult for me," he added.

Vidal also said it appeared that the President has started to change based on the feedback given to him by Bro. Mike Velarde, spiritual leader of the El Shaddai group.

Mr. Estrada, he said, has been trying "his best" to reform himself and his ways.

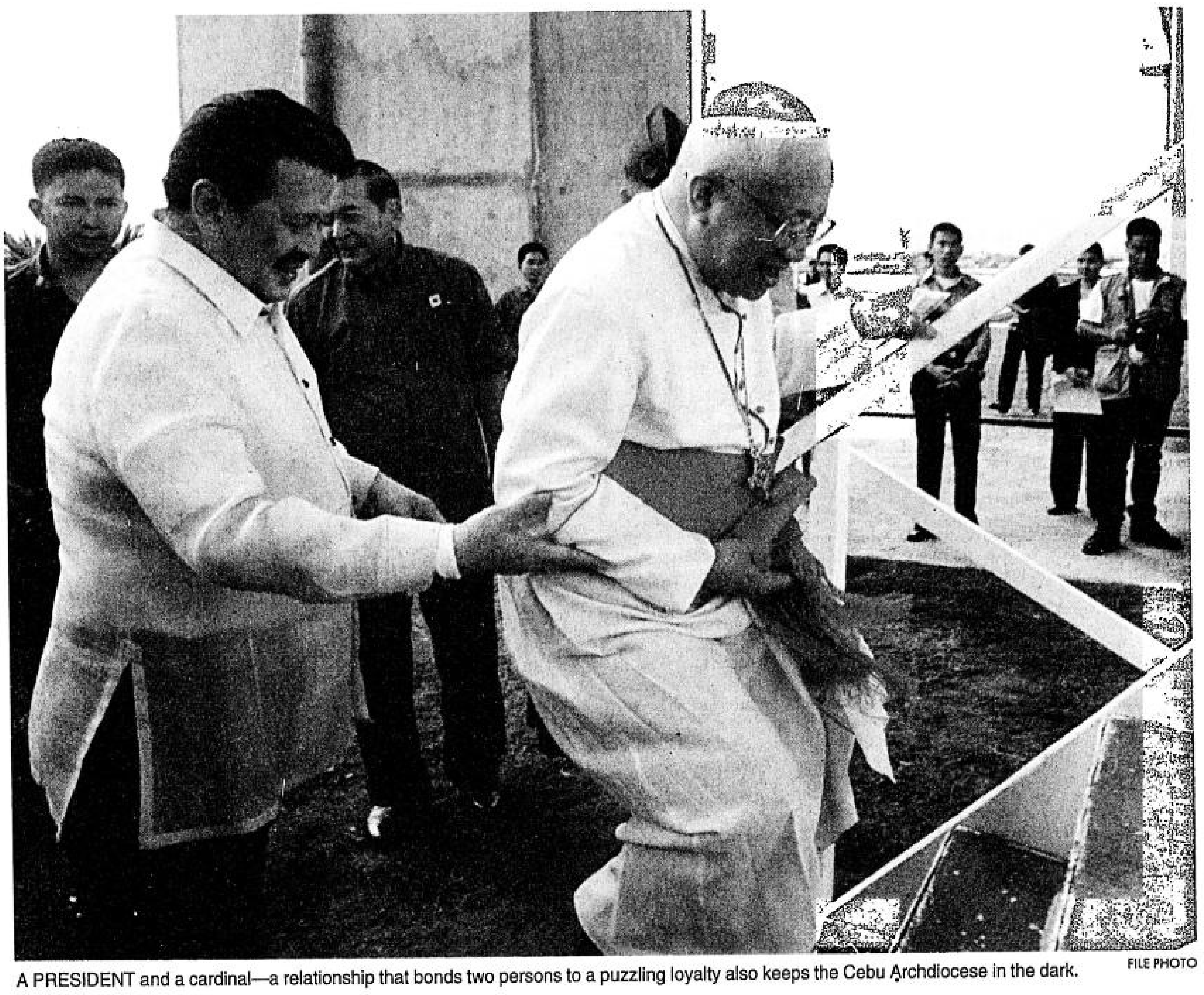
"There are other plans that are being brought up by some quarters in order to help out the President to do something else in line with what they perceived as the truth in terms (of) the common welfare of our people," he said.

The change appeared to have started when Vidal and the Presbyteral Council issued a statement in October where they called on the President "for a chance to change so the truth may be told and respected and trust may be rebuilt."

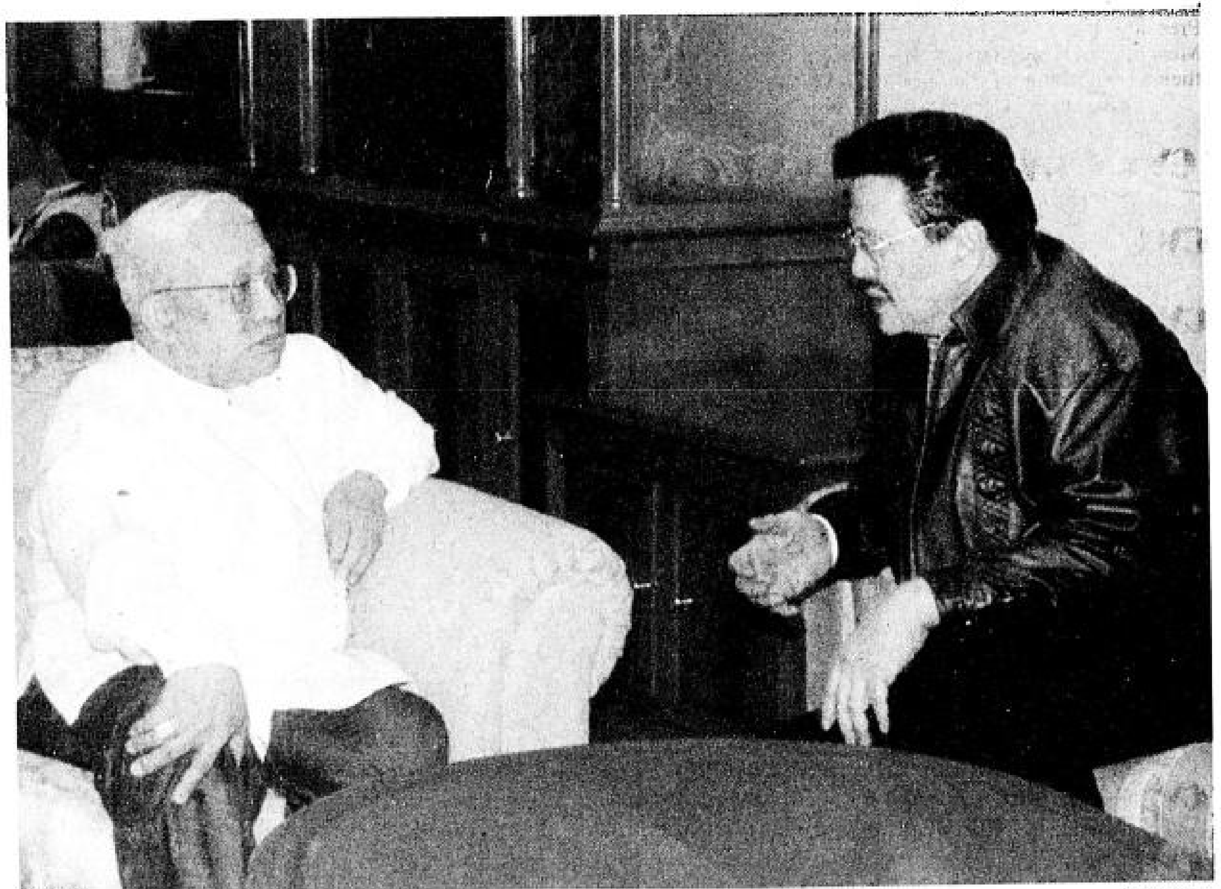
"When we have our own statement for the first time, I have to explain . . . to him what is (the) meaning of a chance (to) change. What are the changes that will lead to the satisfaction of our people and to the welfare of our people? He said 'I will try' but he said . . . sincerely and honestly: What you're asking me to do is difficult," said Vidal.

When asked if he asked the President to give up his vices and stop his womanizing, Vidal replied: "I may have mentioned that specifically."

But Vidal said he also respects the decision of the President. "Even if I am a cardinal, he is the head of the state as of now. And so I must always respect that position. In the same (way) that I, as a cardinal, prince of the Church, should be respected in my own position."



A PRESIDENT and a cardinal—a relationship that bonds two persons to a puzzling loyalty also keeps the Cebu Archdiocese in the dark. FILE PHOTO



A MEETING of minds between Cardinal Vidal and President Joseph Estrada. FILE PHOTO

Cebu protests isolate a prince of the Church

BY MALOU GUANZON-APALISOK
Cebu City

JOINING mass rallies and demonstrations calling for President Estrada's ouster puts Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal in a dilemma nowadays.

Cebuanos took to the uptown Fuente Osmeña Rotunda Tuesday night after 11 senator-judges voted not to open the sealed envelope that would reveal further how allegedly President Estrada amassed so much ill-gotten wealth in so short a time in power.

Cardinal Vidal's silence over the Jan. 16 impeachment trial and his non-appearance in subsequent protest actions became so conspicuous that it prompted activists to hoist a placard that read, "Cardinal Vidal, where are you?"

The rise of indignation prompted Vidal and the Presbyteral Council of Cebu to issue a statement. However, instead of coming out with a categorical stance that hews to the statement of other Catholic bishops, the statement contained "guidelines for the faithful as they pursue different paths in the search for truth."

The opening statement is reflective of the current political chaos: "Today our people are sad and outraged. They had pinned their hopes on the impeachment trial. They had prayed for a 'conscientious and impartial conduct' of the process. The decision not to open the second envelope has been perceived as a major obstacle to the sincere search for the whole truth. Now they feel betrayed. And we, the Archbishop and the Presbyteral Council of Cebu, stand with them."

Unlike Jaime Cardinal Sin of Manila, the 70-year-old Cardinal Vidal refuses to join calls for the resignation of President Estrada. Part of the prelate's statement is addressed to quarters that would like to see the Senate trial come to a conclusion.

For those who view the trial as a farce, the Cardinal said: "Respect the decision others have chosen as you pursue your own course of action. Be guided by the principle of 'active non-violence' as you join forms of public protests. Be inspired by the call 'to promote and defend moral truth' as you persevere in your prayer vigils, fasting and Eucharistic celebrations."

'The other Cardinal'

Vidal is sometimes called the "other Cardinal" because he has special access to President Estrada. He graced the President's inaugural, officiated in the wedding of presidential daughter Jackie Ejercito to Beaver Lopez and attended the signing of the P50-billion coconut levy fund in Malacañang. It has acknowledged the Cardinal's support in lobbying Pagcor for a P10-million assistance for diocesan programs.

Cardinal Vidal's sympathy for the President puts him at odds with a large number of local religious and church-based organizations openly advocating Estrada's ouster. The local citizen's electoral watchdog (which Vidal heads) known as C-Cimpel and Barug Sugbu (Stand Up, Cebu), the federation of non-government organizations and peoples' organizations have taken to the streets ever since the jueteng scandal erupted.

Cebuanos can't miss the clashing opinions between Vidal and members of the local clergy.

A homily delivered by the San Carlos Seminary rector, Fr. Aloysius Cartagenas last December warned the 'silent supporters' of an administration that glorifies a culture of bribery and corruption. "Our failure to make a stand in the face of this evil amounts to support," Cartagenas stressed.

Fr. Carmelo Diola, a professor of the seminary, reminded Vidal of a promise to alter his position "in a life and death situation," saying what happened in the Senate last Tuesday signified the death of truth and justice.

During Thursday's press conference, the cardinal sidestepped questions whether he sees the political crisis as a battle between good and evil. He continued to buck calls for him to take the lead in the anti-Estrada demonstrations saying that it was the role of lay people.

"I would be pastoral rather than popular," he said in previous interviews.

Alienation

Cardinal Vidal's neutral stance has disappointed, even divided, the local clergy and other concerned groups.

Fr. Carmelo Diola, a professor of the San Carlos Seminary, cautioned the Cardinal against taking a neutral stand, saying this could "alienate him from his flock." Barug Sugbu co-chair Ernesto Aboitiz, who presided over the group's meeting just as the Cardinal issued the statement, declined to comment on Vidal's position.

Still, it maybe a demonstration of the local clergy's deep affection for the Cardinal that it has seen "a wide room to maneuver" in his statement.

"It's as moral as you can get," Diola quipped after the press conference. He added that Vidal's position would leave a positive effect on the political system, noting the Cebuanos' spontaneous response to calls to action.

The religious communities in Cebu, such as the Jesuits, Redemptorists and Divine World Society, have opted not to comment on Vidal's "neutral stance."

But they, too, have made clear their positions that they are for the resignation of President Estrada, and have actively participated in the indignation rallies that have become a daily occurrence in Cebu since the first spontaneous rally along the Fuente Osmeña Park began shortly before midnight Tuesday.

Yesterday, the Redemptorists in the Philippines issued a statement that renews its call for the President's resignation, saying that the impeachment trial last Tuesday turned out to be a "real farce."

The Redemptorist statement, signed by Fr. Louie Hechanova, the provincial superior of the Province of Cebu (which covers the Redemptorist communities in the Visayas and Mindanao), and Fr. Teofilo Vinteres, vice provincial superior of the Redemptorist Vice-Province of Manila, stressed:

"It is now the hour for the Filipino people to make their voice heard loud and clear. On our part, we say that we refuse to continue (being under) a President who is both immoral and a perceived criminal. He has abused his power and ruined the economy of our country in favor of his numerous families and cronies. He has betrayed the poor (whom) he vowed to serve even [illegible] they cannot always see the connection between their misery and his failure in governance. The conclusion is now clear as day and no pseudo-conversion can remedy the situation: President Estrada has to go and go quickly."

Is Vidal's real role yet to come?

He grapples with the decision at a time when the island prepares for the feast of the Holy Child Jesus tomorrow.

The religious festivities had reeled off last week to be capped by a Pontifical Mass at the Basilica del Santo Niño tomorrow. By midday, the city will make way for street dancing in a colorful grand parade and merrymaking known as Sinulog.

If the Cardinal expects a respite in the midst of the festivities, he will be in for an unpleasant surprise as anti-Estrada groups are planning to make a political statement even during the mardi gras. ***With a report from Edra Benedicto, PDI Visayas Bureau***

Military defection: The inside story

(From page A1)

It was Reyes who first talked to the President and told him that the military was withdrawing its support but with the assurance that his family would be protected.

The phone was passed on to Mercado who told Mr. Estrada: "Mr. President, *mabigat itong isyung ito.* We're talking about the entire Armed Forces withdrawing its support" (This is a serious issue.)

President Estrada asked to talk again with Reyes. But there was no longer any turning back at that time, according to Mercado.

Reyes had already come to a firm decision even before their meeting yesterday, recalled Mercado. Reyes had been talking all along with retired generals like Renato de Villa, he said.

"We didn't want to stay long on the phone. The President sounded very sad," Mercado said.

More troops

Earlier in the day AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Generoso Senga disclosed that troops had been called into Manila from military units in Northern and Southern Luzon.

Senga said, "The movement had been authorized by the Armed Forces. The troops were brought here to respond to a situation that may arise."

Senga also said, "We don't want a situation to arise and the military is not ready."

In an early afternoon briefing, Senga claimed that the troops were meant to back up the Philippine National Police in light of the rallies for and against President Estrada in Metro Manila.

Senga said, "We brought some troops here only to be ready if we are needed."

Mercado said that he had gone to Malacañang at about 9:30 a.m. yesterday and saw Mr. Estrada talking with his defense counsels. The President later announced that he had agreed to the opening of the contested bank documents.

He was there with other Cabinet officials for a luncheon briefing with the President. A portent of things to come came when Finance Secretary Jose Pardo did not show up. He also could not be contacted. Reyes himself was expected at the meeting. When he was called by telephone, he assured that he was on his way. Mercado, who was wearing a black shirt, the color of protest, left before lunch.

Mode of denial

Of that last meeting, Mercado said that the President was clearly still in the state of denial even as the options open to him were fast closing out.

Mercado and Reyes had first talked about the option of withdrawing the AFP's support from the President last Wednesday right inside Malacañang, Mercado told reporters in Camp Aguinaldo after their triumphant appearance at the Edsa Shrine.

Their meeting happened a day after the Senate cast its infamous 11-10 vote which scuttled the opening of a second set of documents containing information on the bank account of Jose Velarde, the name used by President Estrada for his transactions with Equitable PCI Bank.

"I told General Reyes that we should study it carefully," Mercado said. "We decided to meet again after lunch today (Friday)."

"It was an easy meeting of the minds," Mercado said. By the time Mercado reached the safehouse at Corinthian Gardens, Reyes had already assembled the top commanders of the AFP, namely, Army chief Lt. Gen. Diomedio Villanueva, Navy Flag Officer in Command Rear Admiral Guillermo Wong, and Air Force commander Lt. Gen. Benjamin Defensor.

AFP Vice Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Jose Calimlim was not present but had earlier placed a call to Reyes to say he was with the group.

Mercado said the group was worried that if they did not decide to withdraw support, "the AFP would be divided if no action was immediately taken."

After Clarissa's testimony

Mercado said he started entertaining the withdrawal option on hearing the testimony of Equitable PCI Bank vice president Clarissa Ocampo who told the impeachment court that she saw Mr. Estrada sign bank documents using the name Jose Velarde.

"The final straw was when the impeachment trial was suspended," Mercado said. "There I was asking the military to stay neutral and allow the process to take its due course but when the hearings were stopped I no longer had anything to hold on to."

Mercado said breaking away from the President was a hard decision for him as they have been political allies since their election as senators in 1987.

"Erap is not a bad person he's a good friend," Mercado said.

"After lunch, I went to see General Reyes and that was it," Mercado said. "We rode in the same vehicle going to the Edsa Shrine."

Before they made their last call to the President, Reyes assured Mercado that major units of the AFP would follow orders only from him and that there won't be any bloodshed.

At about 2:30 p.m. the gates to Camp Aguinaldo were closed.

Armor units consisting of V-150 and Simba vehicles began rolling around the camp. A company of Army special forces was deployed at the Aguinaldo parade grounds. They wore bulletproof vests, sniper rifles, machine guns and auto-tank rockets.

Their commanding officer, a major, who asked not to be named, said their instructions were to "stand by." The same officer said their instructions were "to protect the people and uphold the Constitution."

The stage for the defection of Reyes and Mercado was set.

LUNGSOD NG MAYNILA PILIPINAS

Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
Manila, Philippines

NOTICE TO MANILA BUSINESS TAXPAYERS

Payment of Business Taxes, Mayor's Permit and other regulatory fees for the CY 2001 without penalty shall be on or before January 22, 2001.

In connection herewith, the Office of the City Treasurer is ALSO open to accommodate the paying public on the following dates:

Saturday, January 20, 2001 - 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 21, 2001 - 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

To avoid the rush, please pay your taxes before the deadline.

Manila, January 17, 2001.

(SGD)LIBERTY M. TOLEDO
City Treasurer

(SGD)JOSE L. ATIENZA, JR.
City Mayor

CWL CWL * CWL * CWL * CWL * CWL * CWL * CWL * CWL * CWL * CWI CWL * CWL * CWL * CWL * CWL * CWL * CWL

His Eminence
Jaime Cardinal L. Sin, D.D.
National Spiritual Director

Msgr. Hernando M. Coronel
Asst. National Spiritual Director

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ERAP RESIGN NOW! DAVAO CLERGY
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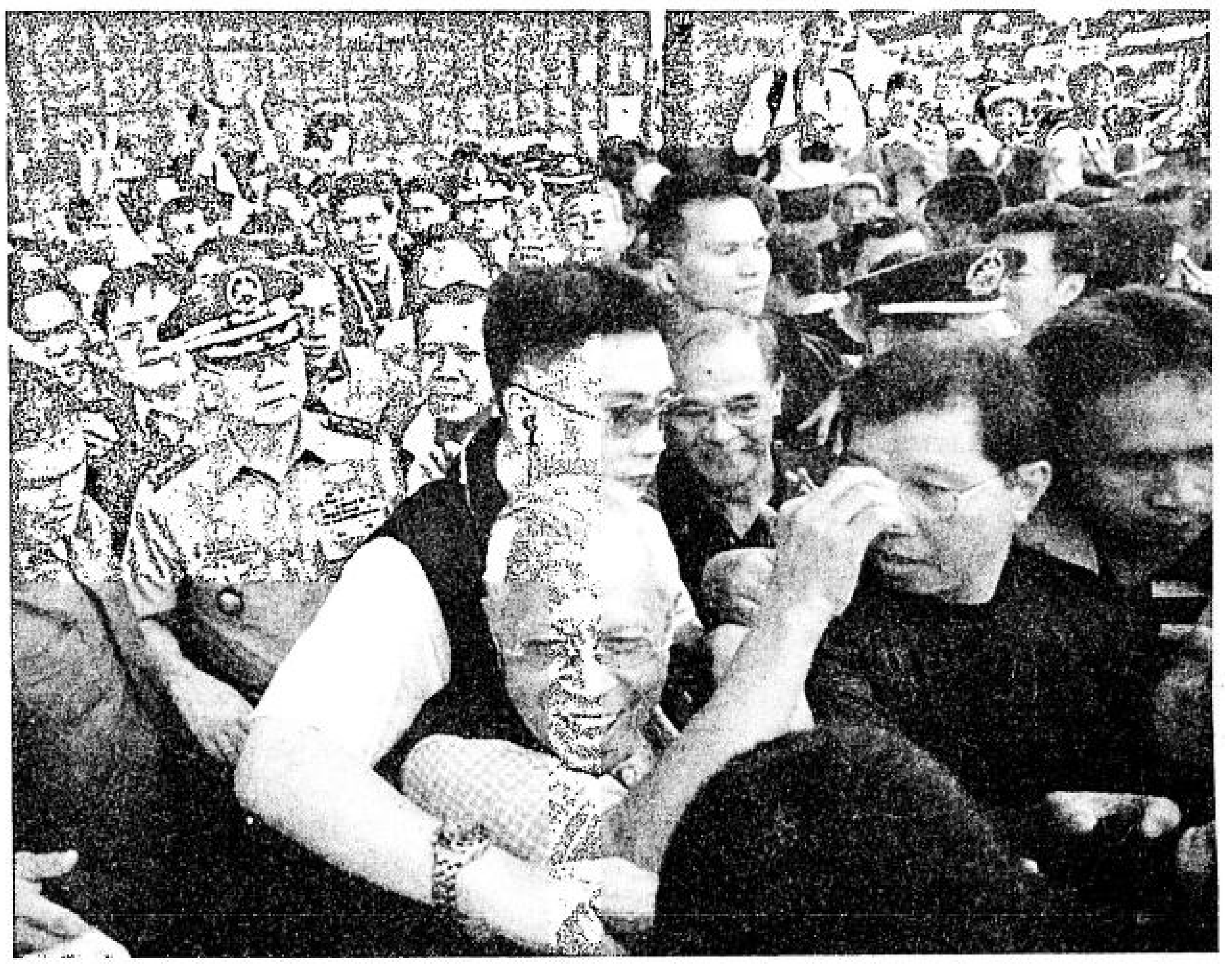
GENE BOYD LUMAWAG

DAVAO students stage the southern version of People Power II.

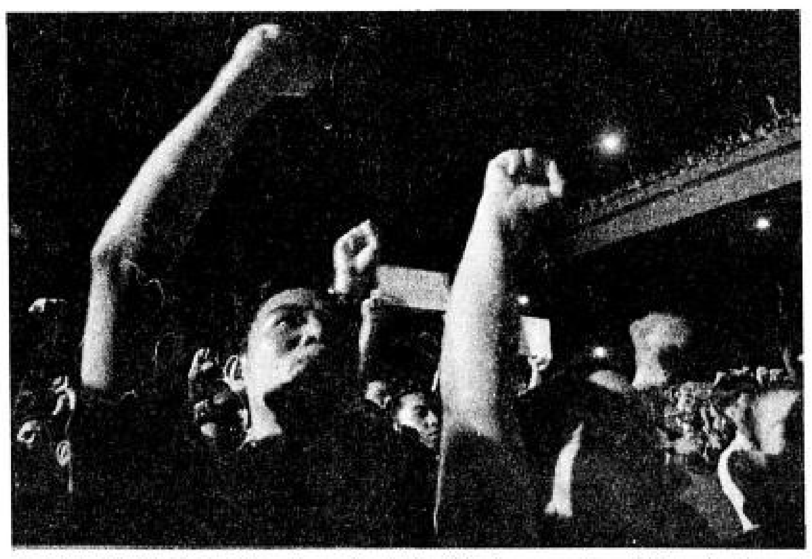
ANTI-ERAP protesters converge at the Rizal Park in Davao City to demand President Estrada's resignation. GENE BOYD LUMAWAG

CLENCHED FISTS from entertainers Freddie Aguilar and Danny Javier of the Apo Hiking Society at the Edsa Shrine. MIKE ALQUINTO

THUMBS DOWN from show biz personalities Rico Yan and Claudine Baretto. MIKE ALQUINTO



NIGHT OF THE GENERALS: Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Angelo Reyes and Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado lead a march of generals to the Edsa Shrine. JESS YUSON



MORE CLENCHED fists from the Edsa Shrine, center of People Power II. JOAN BONDOC

ROMY HOMILLADA

IT'S NOT OK: The finger sign means peso bills as pro- and anti-Erap protesters confront each other on Ayala Avenue in Makati.

People Power II: History repeats itself

(From page A1)

At the Edsa Shrine, site of the 1986 civilian-backed uprising that toppled the Marcos dictatorship and installed her as president, a beaming Corazon Aquino thanked Filipinos for their prayers, which, she said, made people power succeed for the second time.

But Laguna Gov. Joey Lina cautioned the crowd against a premature celebration, saying: "It's not yet over until the man in Malacañang steps down."

Lina, who chairs the Kangkong Brigade, called on the people to continue to troop to Edsa to maintain the vigil and said the planned march on Malacañang would push through tomorrow.

"We expect three million to participate in the rally on Mendiola," he said.

Vicky Garchitorena, a convenor of the Kongreso ng Mamamayang Pilipino (Kompil) II, said only a few days were needed to launch the "big push."

"Erap has lost support. He has lost his moral ascendancy to lead. He should resign now," Garchitorena said.

Approaching 10 p.m., Lina told the protesters that they had only a few more hours to wait as efforts were underway to convince Mr. Estrada to step down.

Earlier in Davao City, a jubilant Dr. Raul Valles, co-convenor of Rage (Rx Against Erap), told a mixed crowd of nearly 10,000 rich and poor residents gathered at the Rizal Park: "It's just a matter of hours."

Valles urged other protest leaders to ignore the estimated 200 pro-Estrada demonstrators who ran toward the park chanting "Erap remain" and taunting the antis that the President should "remain for life."

"We see a bigger disease in our country. Our democracy is dying, and we have to treat it. We have to remove the cancer of society symbolized by Erap," Valles said.

Elbow to elbow

The crowd at Edsa was packed elbow to elbow in the area fronting SM Megamall, on Ortigas Avenue up to the front of Camp Aguinaldo, at the back of the shrine and in front of Robinson's Galleria.

"This People Power II is better than People Power I," former President Fidel Ramos said.

When Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin's announcement over Radio Veritas of the defections of top officials was repeated at the Edsa Shrine around 3:30 p.m., the protesters were euphoric.

They chanted "Erap resign!" with raised fists for about five minutes as confetti rained down from the flyovers. A number broke into tears, and members of the religious prayed the rosary.

Organizers were set up another stage at the People Power Monument near Camp Aguinaldo to accommodate the increasing number of protesters.

Military and police personnel earlier watching the intersections and blocking vehicles from entering the rally site abandoned their posts and joined the protesters.

Ramos and Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Mr. Estrada's constitutional successor, exhorted the public to come to Edsa.

"Let us be united. Let us show the world that we can do People Power II, and that we can do it better. Let us show the world what people power can do," Ramos said.

Multisectoral

Most of the protesters represented labor, the government bureaucracy, militant groups, the religious and students who had walked out of their classes.

Big business provided support by supplying food and coffee around the clock for the protesters and the media. The Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. donated 10 land lines for the use of the media as well as public phones.

Employees of the Commission on Human Rights walked out of their offices after reports that pro-Estrada groups had attacked the anti-Estrada protesters on Ayala Avenue and those who came in buses from Naga and Southern Tagalog.

"We walked out because there are no human rights under the Estrada administration," declared the employees, who were lauded by the protesters at the Edsa Shrine.

Owners of at least 450 companies with a minimum of 70 to 1,200 workers all over Metro Manila allowed their workers to join People Power II, according to Elmer Labog of the Kilusang Mayo Uno.

Hours earlier, rumors spread that the military was sending tanks to disperse the crowd at the Edsa Shrine.

Those waiting, dressed mainly in black, the color adopted by the anti-Estrada forces to symbolize the "death of truth," fell silent, with some people distributing rosaries to boost their spirits in the face of a feared military assault.

But this was followed with a collective sigh of relief, and then a cheer of victory after it was revealed that Armed Forces chief Gen. Angelo Reyes was coming to the shrine to announce that the military was withdrawing its support for Mr. Estrada.

Thunderous

Reyes and Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado arrived on board a helicopter that landed near the gate of Corinthian Gardens.

Flanked by AFP Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Jose Calimlim, the two men waded through the thick crowd and were greeted with thunderous cheers.

"It will only be a matter of time. For more than two years we waged this battle, and now, I think it is nearing a victorious end," said Malabon-Navotas Rep. Federico Sandoval II as he fought back tears.

Sen. Sergio Osmeña III said he did not know anymore what it would take to convince the President to step down.

"One by one, (Mr. Estrada) is losing his base support. All he has now are the Iglesia ni Cristo and Brother Mike (Velarde of the El Shaddai)," Osmeña said.

Quezon City Rep. Feliciano Belmonte, chief of the House prosecution panel, said "Mr. Estrada has nothing to hold on to anymore."

"One minute? One hour? Tonight? It's just a matter of time," Belmonte said.

A number of show biz personalities—including Vivian Foz, Marjorie Barretto, Ariel Rivera and his wife Gelli De Belen, Roderick Paulate, Maila Gumila, Pops Fernandez and Rica Peralejo—formed a long line on the ledge of the shrine.

A single-engine plane made low passes and dropped green confetti on the appreciative crowd.

Toward sundown, a chopper hovered over the rally site with a yellow, neon-colored "Resign" emblazoned on its body.

Intelligent

Aquino said that Filipinos should start making intelligent choices during elections, and that she was thinking of launching a movement that would help the electorate.

"The elections are near. I hope we have learned our lessons," she said.

Aquino spoke at the end of a Mass concelebrated by Sin and other bishops and priests after Reyes announced the AFP's withdrawal of support from the President.

She said she was thinking of launching a movement named Flock (For Love of Country *Kami*), to help the people vote wisely.

"If the politicians don't listen to you then you should not vote for them," Aquino said.

Dwelling on people power, she said: "What miracles are happening to us because we Filipinos have not forgotten to pray."

She said the movement for Mr. Estrada's resignation would not have succeeded without the people's prayers and their courage to seek the truth.

She thanked Sin, the priests, and the people who came to Edsa, especially the youth, who had given her "so much hope."

"To those students who came here everyday, you are really the hope of the country," she added.

Aquino also thanked the 10 senators who voted to open the second envelope containing the "Jose Velarde" documents, and the impeachment prosecutors, like Makati Rep. Joker Arroyo, for their commitment to truth.

In the streets

In Davao, Carlos Isagani Zarate, co-convenor of the lawyers' group Dismiss Now Erap, said some lawyers who joined a protest march yesterday had sought postponement of their hearings to be able to attend.

Nearly 100 golfers and caddies belonging to the Concerned Golfers of Davao City marched from the Davao City Golf Club in Matina carrying placards and streamers denouncing Mr. Estrada and the 11 senators who voted against opening the Jose Velarde documents.

Eliseo Braganza, legal officer of the Davao Light and Power Co., said: "The fight is now in the streets. We will not stop until Erap steps down."

Similar statements were aired in Iligan City, Misamis Occidental, Cagayan de Oro City, Davao del Sur and Cotabato City. ***Reports from Philip C. Tubeza, Christine Herrera and Rocky Nazareno in Manila; Froilan Gallardo, Allan A. Nawal, Merpu P. Roa, Ferdinand O. Zuasola, Charlie C. Señase, Ellen P. Red, Ayan C. Mellejor, Lito delos Reyes and Carolyn O. Arguillas, PDI Mindanao Bureau; AFP***

AFP deals fatal blow to Erap presidency

(From page A1)

country, this decision had to be (made)," Reyes told the crowd inside the Edsa Shrine media center.

"On behalf of the 113,000-strong Armed Forces of the Philippines, we wish to announce that we are withdrawing our support from the incumbent President. We will support his constitutionally mandated successor under Article 2 Section 3 of the Constitution," Reyes said. "The AFP must protect the people and the State."

The number two Philippine National Police official, Deputy Director General Reynaldo Wycoco, said the security forces' decision to turn against the President was "not a coup" and was allowed under the Constitution.

"This is just withdrawing our support," he said.

'We have won'

PNP chief Director General Panfilo Lacson, the last senior security official left on the side of the President, followed the military leadership's example in the evening and withdrew his backing for the leader.

Reyes announced his defection in the media center, but his voice was heard on a public address system by hundreds of thousands of spellbound protesters gathered on the highway, and by millions more glued to their radios and TV screens.

At the same time, the general appealed to Filipinos to allow the political healing process to begin. "Let us not be vindictive," he said.

After the Armed Forces commanders deserted the President, Former Defense Secretary Renato de Villa declared: "We have won."

Ramos, a key figure in the 1986 revolt that oust the late Ferdinand Marcos, said: "This time, let me tell you, Edsa 2 was done better by our professional Armed Forces and our professional national police."

Domino effect

Those who bolted to the opposition included AFP Vice Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Jose Calimlim, Army chief Lt. Gen. Diomedio Villanueva, Air Force chief Lt. Gen. Benjamin Defensor, Flag Officer of the Philippine Navy Vice Admiral Guillermo Wong, Deputy Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Jaime de los Santos.

From the PNP came Wycoco, Metro Manila director general Chief Supt. Edgardo Aglipay, and the directors of the metro's five police districts.

The domino effect nationwide was immediate.

All 200 members of the officer corps of the Visayas Command announced that they were also deserting the President after the defections in Metro Manila.

The top officers of the PNP in the Central Visayas and those in Cebu, Negros Occidental and Iloilo also followed suit.

The appearance of Reyes at the Edsa rally yesterday afternoon was the "cue" they were waiting for, a Viscom officer told the INQUIRER.

In Mindanao, Col. Hilario Atendido, Southcom spokesperson, declared that "the entire AFP is behind General Reyes."

Reyes relayed his decision to Macapagal yesterday morning after a series of negotiations with leaders of anti-Estrada forces.

Ping: Sorry, sir

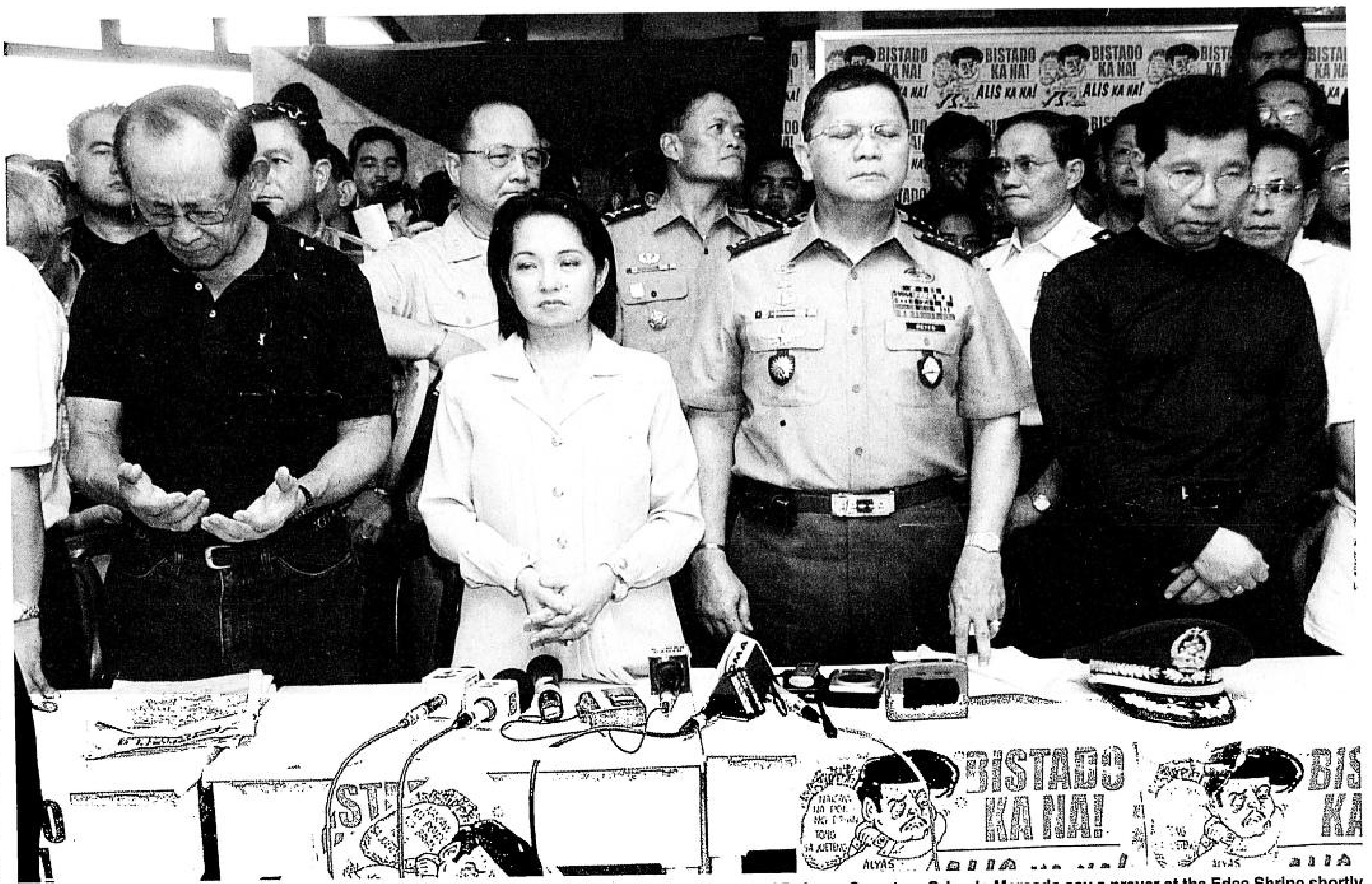
Lacson told reporters he called on Mr. Estrada at Malacañang in the afternoon and "expressed to him the withdrawal of" the police forces' support.

Lacson arrived in Camp Crame from Malacañang at about 5:30 p.m. and went straight to his office at the PNP headquarters.

An hour later, he called a press conference.

"Sorry, Mr. President, but I have to withdraw my support," Lacson said.

"Whoever is the duly constituted authority, then we will follow (that leader's) order," the PNP chief said.


BISTADO KA NA!
ALIS KA NA!
BISTADO KA NA!
ALYAS

FORMER President Fidel Ramos, Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Gen. Angelo Reyes and Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado say a prayer at the Edsa Shrine shortly before their press conference yesterday.

EDWIN BACASMAS

"As a political appointee myself, duty dictates that I should tender my courtesy resignation as soon as the duly constituted successor officially assumes the Office of the President," he added.

'Like a father'

Mercado, a longtime friend of the President, said the decision to bolt camp "hurt but it had to be done."

Reyes called his own defection a "very difficult decision.

"The President is . . . like a father, an elder brother, a friend, everything like that," Reyes said, his voice shaking as he spoke by telephone to The Associated Press. "He has been very, very good to me. It's difficult, but it has to be done."

Ramos exhorted police officers based in Camp Crame to join the people at Edsa. "*Kayong mga taga-Camp Crame, halina kayo dito* (Edsa)," Ramos said.

Concerns about a coup, in a nation with a history of coup attempts, were fueled early yesterday. Army troops battling communist guerrillas in rural areas were recalled to Metro Manila, officials said yesterday, in case they were needed to restore order.

The Air Force went on red alert status at Villamor Air Base headquarters. Air Force civilian personnel were ordered to go home as early as 3 p.m.

Seen on standby were four attack helicopters, three Huey helicopters, two Sikorsky helicopters and one C-130 plane.

Air Force commander Defensor is a brother of Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, a staunch supporter of Mr. Estrada.

Metro Manila police chief Aglipay, who went to Edsa with his five district directors around 6:30 p.m., said he had instructed his men to "protect the people" and keep the peace.

Wycoco, PNP deputy chief for administration, was among the first senior police officials who expressed intentions of withdrawing support.

Sources added that Chief Supt. Florencio Fianza and Senior Supt. Jaime Caringal were among the first batch of PNP officials who initiated efforts to convince other police personnel to bolt camps.

Since November last year, the two were actively involved in the clandestine meetings with members of the opposition.

Preemptive

Malacañang authorities immediately named Calimlim the new military chief following Reyes' defection.

But Calimlim arrived at the Edsa Shrine at 4:30 p.m. to announce his own defection, saying that it was a preemptive move against possible factionalism in the AFP.

Calimlim said he had informed President Estrada about his decision before going to the shrine.

Reyes, a member of Philippine Military Academy (PMA) Class 1966, had reportedly expressed disgust over the demoralization in military ranks after Mr. Estrada became embroiled in various controversies.

Brig. Gen. Generoso Senga, AFP spokesman, also announced that he was supporting Reyes.

Reyes' group was escorted by leaders of the Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabansa (RAM), headed by retired Air Force Brig. Gen. Edgardo Abenina, retired Navy commodore Domingo Calajate and Supt. Reynaldo Berroya.

Also present at the Edsa Shrine was Capt. Bong Cervantes, leader of the Young Officers Union (YOU), an organization of idealistic junior officers within the PNP and AFP.

Viscom

The Visayas Command defection was announced by its commanding general, Rear Admiral Napoleon Baylon, following a meeting with his officers.

The officers immediately went into a closed-door meeting after Reyes and the other senior commanders defected to the opposition.

The Viscom officer told the INQUIRER that the officers first met early yesterday to collectively decide that they would also defect should Reyes withdraw his support from President Estrada.

"The entire Visayas Command is supporting General Reyes. We follow the chain of command," declared Col. Eugenio Sedo, the Viscom chief of staff.

Inside Camp Lapulapu, the Viscom headquarters in Cebu City, 1,000 enlisted personnel joined the defectors, officers said.

The defections were led by one of the top police officers in the Visayas, Chief Supt. Tiburcio Fusillero, the PNP director for Central Visayas and a classmate of Lacson.

"We are a PNP of the people," Fusillero told the INQUIRER.

More defections

Brig. Gen. Julius Javier, commanding officer of the Philippine Army 3rd Infantry Division based in Camp Macario Peralta in Jamindan, Capiz, also announced his defection.

Chief Supt. Julius Yarcia, who belongs to Class '71 of the Philippine Military Academy, followed suit.

Senior Supt. Wilfredo Blanco, assistant regional director for operation of the PNP in Western Visayas, would not declare the unit's defection but said all police officers in the region were closely watching events in Metro Manila and would "follow whoever is the next President."

Shortly after Lacson made his brief official statement, top police and military officers in Western Visayas withdrew their support as well. The officers assured the public that they would continue to perform their basic function—law enforcement.

'It's great!'

Brig. Gen. Delfin Lorenzana, commander of the Army's 601st Brigade based in Sarangani, told the INQUIRER that as early as 1 p.m. Friday, his unit was already informed by higher headquarters of the decision of Reyes and Mercado.

"We fully support them and we salute them for making such a gallant decision," he said.

"It's great!" exclaimed Lorenzana, among 12 AFP officials newly promoted by Mr. Estrada "I am glad that obviously we would have a peaceful transition. This is once again a shining moment for the Filipinos."

In Isabela, Maj. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, 5th Infantry Battalion chief, voiced full support for Mercado and Reyes, saying he and his men would rally behind them "as long as the cause is for the Filipino people."

Soldiers of the 5th ID have secured Army posts, government installations, airports and transmission lines.

'With Constitution'

"I'm with General Reyes, we are with the people," said Col. Saulito Aromin, 103rd Army Brigade commander based in Basilan province.

"I'm with the Constitution whatever happens," Supt. Dominador Domingo Jr., Western Mindanao Regional police director, said.

Maj. Gen. Ernesto Carolina, chief of the 7th Infantry Division, said he and the commanding generals of all eight divisions of the Army nationwide gathered at the Army operations center in Fort Bonifacio yesterday as Reyes and other top officers spoke on Edsa.

He said he felt relieved and happy over the decision made by his superiors.

"We will be with the people. Our loyalty is to the institution, not to the person. I am happy for our countrymen. Now, we see hope," Carolina said.

Conscience

In Cagayan de Oro City, Maj. Gen. Roy Cimatu, chief of the Army's 4th Infantry Division, told the INQUIRER to "tell the people of Cagayan that the 4th ID is now solidly behind them."

Security around Camp Evangelista was tight yesterday. Army guards barred anyone, including reporters, from entering the camp.

In Legazpi City, Chief Supt. Marcelo E. Navarro Jr., Bicol police chief, said the PNP in Bicol recognized its role as protector of the people and was thankful that the situation had remained peaceful.

"This is what my conscience dictates," said Maj. Gen. Jose Lachica, commander of the newly activated Joint Task Force Southern Luzon based in Camp Guillermo Nakar in Lucena City, as he declared yesterday afternoon his withdrawal of support from Mr. Estrada.

Lachica said he had the support of the whole chain of command in Southern Luzon.

When asked whether he would recognize the likely presidency of Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, the general replied, "What I know is that we're together with General Reyes." ***With reports from TJ Burgonio, Agnes Donato, Michael Lim Ubac; Connie Fernandez, Piedad Gonzalez, Raj Padilla, and Carla Gomez PDI Visayas Bureau; Floreño G. Solmirano and Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Amy B. Cabusao, Aquiles Z. Zonio, Ellen P. Red, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Inquirer wires***

Reyes vows to obey only Macapagal

ARMED Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Angelo Reyes met last night with Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to pledge that he will only take orders from the "new national leaders and the new commander in chief."

He made the declaration during a meeting with Macapagal in a hotel in Ortigas, Pasig City.

Reyes was with Gen. Jose Calimlim and the staff officers of the AFP. Also present were former President Fidel Ramos and former Defense Secretary Renato de Villa.

A statement issued by De Villa, as spokesperson of the group and authenticated by former Presidential Assistant for Mindanao Jesus Dureza, rejected "in no uncertain terms" Mr. Estrada's suggestion for a snap elections "for lack of constitutional basis."

"We reject in no uncertain terms the offer of President Estrada to hold a snap election for lack of constitutional basis," said the statement.

"President Estrada has lost not only moral authority to govern but now has no government in the face of the mass resignation of his Cabinet and the withdrawal of support by the entire Armed Forces of the Philippines and Philippine National Police."

"In accordance with the people's demand, President Estrada must resign and he must do this now. We will only take orders from our new national leaders and new commander in chief, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo." ***Carolyn O. Arguillas, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

It's over: 11 Cabinet men resign

(From page A1)

in the department's quadrangle, and started to chant anti-Estrada slogans.

Araneta said she joined the employees to talk to them about "what we can do."

"We decided that we must go to Edsa," she said.

"I didn't have time to draft my resignation letter."

A rowdy crowd booed Araneta when she got to the Edsa Shrine, forcing her to seek refuge at the secretariat office. Ironically, it was Rep. Michael Defensor, a staunch critic of hers, who escorted her out of the office—through a window—to avoid the unruly crowd.

Painful

For many of the former Cabinet members, the decision to abandon the President was painful.

Aguirre, in his resignation letter, told Mr. Estrada that "it is with deep pain as a friend that I hereby tender my irrevocable resignation."

Lim, another close friend of the President's, told reporters he defected "for the people. I resigned because I'm after truth and justice."

The Senate vote that rejected the opening of the second envelope containing President Estrada's alleged P3.2-billion secret bank account finally convinced him that "there's something wrong somewhere."

When he left Malacañang around 1:30 p.m. yesterday, the President was "still conferring with his lawyers and (Executive Secretary) Angara," Lim told reporters after he arrived at the Edsa shrine around 6 p.m.

He called on all local government units to "heed the call of the people and go to Edsa. For the sake of the country, join the demonstrations."

"He (Mr. Estrada) should resign because in the course of the trial the evidence is pouring in," Lim said.

Going, gone

Pardo and Medalla resigned together with five undersecretaries of the Department of Finance, National Treasurer Leonor Briones and Bureau of Internal Revenue Commissioner Dakila Fonacier.

Pardo said he and Medalla submitted their irrevocable resignations to Malacañang yesterday afternoon.

The five finance undersecretaries tendered their resignation Thursday morning. An unconfirmed report said that immigration chief Rufus Rodriguez had also left the President's side. Bureau of Customs Commissioner Renato Ampil remained loyal to Mr. Estrada,

Three of the finance undersecretaries—Joel Banares, Rod Castelo, and Lily Gruba— are holdovers from the administration of former Finance Secretary Edgardo Espiritu. Cornelio Gison and Flor Tarriela were appointed by Pardo after he took over from Espiritu in mid-January.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura, however, said he and six other members of the Monetary Board would not resign. The sixth board seat is an ex-officio position occupied by Pardo.

Duty

"I and the other members of the monetary board have a duty to preserve the financial system and because of this, we could and would not resign," said Buenaventura.

The BSP chief, who took his oath in July 1999, has a six-year term that ends in 2005.

Pardo, the former trade secretary, took over from Espiritu in January.

A source close to Pardo had disclosed the finance chief had actually submitted his resignation as then trade secretary to the President as early as Jan. 6. But Mr. Estrada prevailed on him to stay on, the source said.

Pardo has been asked repeatedly by his good friend, former President Corazon Aquino, to leave the Estrada administration. On Wednesday, he vowed not to resign the impeachment court reached a verdict. ***With reports from Michael Lim Ubac and Agnes Donato***

SUDDEN-DEATH

Pagunsan cops DHL Open

By Jong Arcano

THREE strokes down with still two holes to go, Juvic Pagunsan teed off on the 17th in a hurry to get his round done and party with Boyet Zaragosa—his longtime buddy who was on the verge of victory.

But four holes later, Pagunsan had his arms on Zaragosa's shoulder, inviting him to a drinking spree.

In one of the biggest reversals in the local golf scene, Pagunsan forged a sudden-death playoff after Zaragosa took a triple-bogey 6 on the killer No. 17 and clinched the sixth DHL Open Amateur golf championship when he birdied the second extra hole.

Pagunsan was ready to concede when he went to the 17th only to see Zaragosa self-destruct with that triple bogey and bungle two more winning chances—a four-footer for birdie on the 18th and another from 12 feet on the first hole of the playoff.

The 22-year-old Pagunsan ended the duel with his Canlubang stablemate in their second return to the par-5 No. 9 serving as the second extra hole, sinking a slightly uphill 10-foot birdie putt

Zaragosa actually was in a better position to make a birdie on the same hole as he went for the green with his second shot but missed to the right. He pitched short to within 15 feet and missed the putt.

The inaugural ladies title went to Carmelette Villaroman-Calimag whose 10-stroke lead after two rounds was left untouched on the way to the lopsided win over Heidi Chua.

Pagunsan, who scored a 75 for a 72-hole total of 290, won P20,000 worth of gift certificate for his victory while Calimag-Villaroman went home with P10,000 in gift certificates plus glass trophies from the sponsoring DHL Philippines.

"I feel sorry for my friend but that's golf. I'll make sure to make it up with him," said Pagunsan.

Zaragosa settled for P15,000 gift certificate runner-up prize with his 74 for the day which enabled him to match Pagunsan's 290 aggregate.

Two-day leader Jun Jun Plana assembled an even par 72 behind a solid start to finish in third place at 293, edging out reigning national champion Angelo Que whose 76 gave him a 294 aggregate at the Canlubang south course.

Solomon Gines fired the day's best round of 71 to salvage a tie for fifth place with Jerome Delariarte (72) at 297 as Canlubang bets dominated men's action by claiming five out of the top eight places.

"Loose grip," was all Zaragosa, a 27-year-old ex-caddie from Davao who is a distant cousin of top pro Cassius Casas, could say when asked about his 17th hole miscue.

PAGUNSAN: Unexpected victory.

Tanpinco, Australian triumph in Jr tourney

THE PHILIPPINES' J.R. Tanpinco closed out with a 77 and Aaron Lyon of Australia sparkled with a final round 70 yesterday to become the major winners in the fourth PLDT Philippine International Junior Championship.

Tanpinco started the last 18 five shots behind front-runner Sae-ung Wittatwat in the Special Division, which is confined to players who are 18-21 years old.

But the 19-year-old Bacolod City campaigner felt he had a chance when he made the turn (starting from the back nine) with a 38 and got a piece of the lead.

Playing his best for last, Lyon, 16, humbled the par 72, 6776-yard Wack Wack Golf and Country Club's East course from the blue tees to run away with the 17 and under overall crown.

Jayvie Agono gave the Philippines her second championship when she came up with an 81 to go with her earlier 73 and 76 to run away with the girls' Class A tiara with 230.

Dorothy Delasin, the 2000 Athlete of the Year awardee, surprised all the 108 participants from 12 countries and territories, parents and officials when she graced the award ceremony.

Tournament director Gerard Cantada invited Delasin, now an LPGA Tour player, before she accepted her award from the Philippine Sportswriters Association.

"Thank you for coming and we would certainly welcome you next year," said Edgardo "Boy" Cantada, president of the organizing Philippine Junior Golf Federation.

Dayrit wants sports execs to have 1 position only

By June Navarro

SPORTS officials may no longer hold dual positions once the Philippine Olympic Committee harmonizes some provisions in its charter with the constitution and by-laws of the 40-member national sports associations.

This was the recommendation of POC president Celso Dayrit to the Olympic body's constitution and by-laws committee, which was tasked to come up with a standard provision synchronizing some sections of the NSA laws.

"There should be no interlocking of functions among the NSAs. In this case, NSA officials can concentrate on a single sport," said Dayrit.

He pointed out that changes with respect to the qualification of officials, term of office and schedule of elections should be made to prevent an upheaval similar to what is happening in cycling and weightlifting.

Softball's Rolly Rivera, chair of by-laws committee, has until Jan. 24 to submit his committee's recommendations to the POC executive board for approval.

After getting the nod of the POC top brass, the general assembly will then move to ratify the amendments on Jan. 31.

Dayrit dispelled claims that the move would infringe the NSAs' autonomy from the Olympic body, saying the POC general assembly can either reject or ratify the NSA charter, which must also conform with the POC.

"In the same manner, the POC charter should be approved by the International Olympic Committee to exercise its powers over its members," said Dayrit. "It will still leave room for NSAs to exercise its own personality since only certain provisions will be altered."

Dayrit then took a swipe at weightlifting officials for altering their constitution overnight. He said there are specific procedures to follow since the NSAs' constitution and by-laws are registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Last week, weightlifting officials "amended" their charter, removing Narciso Aliño as Philippine Weightlifting Association chair and proceeding to elect a new set of officials.

"From what I heard, only one party was present during the meeting and no communication was sent to the POC," said Dayrit. "All parties must be present in the meeting to review all the possible changes in their charter."

Dayrit said the NSAs, particularly weightlifting, should wait for the guidelines to be ratified before tinkering with their constitution.

Davenport whips Elia, marches to 4th round

MELBOURNE, Australia—Defending champion Lindsay Davenport, who struggled through the first two rounds of the Australian Open, had an easier time Friday in beating Silvia Farina Elia 6-2, 6-1.

On the warmest day of the tournament, with temperatures expected to reach 32 degrees Celsius (90 Fahrenheit), Davenport dominated the first center court match. She raced to a 4-0 lead in each set and closed out the victory in 63 minutes.

The No. 2-seeded Davenport's opponent in the fourth round will be No. 15 Kim Clijsters of Belgium, who won the first 11 games and beat qualifier Nuria Llagostera 6-0, 6-1. When Llagostera finally got on the board by holding serve in the next-to-last game, the Spaniard pumped her fist and grinned.

Davenport is 2-0 against the 17-year-old Clijsters, with both matches three-setters last year.

"It's always been like a close match, and I've had my chances," Clijsters said. "I'm looking forward to it. I'm going to enjoy it."

"It's a tough match," Davenport said. "It's funny—for so many years I was the youngest player. Now I'm one of the oldest. The young girls are very fiery and have a hard-hitting game, and they go for their shots.

Davenport, pushed to three sets in wins over Jelena Dokic and Greta Arn, had less trouble with Farina Elia. Davenport struggled with her serve but feasted on the Italian's second serve and moved better than in her previous match.

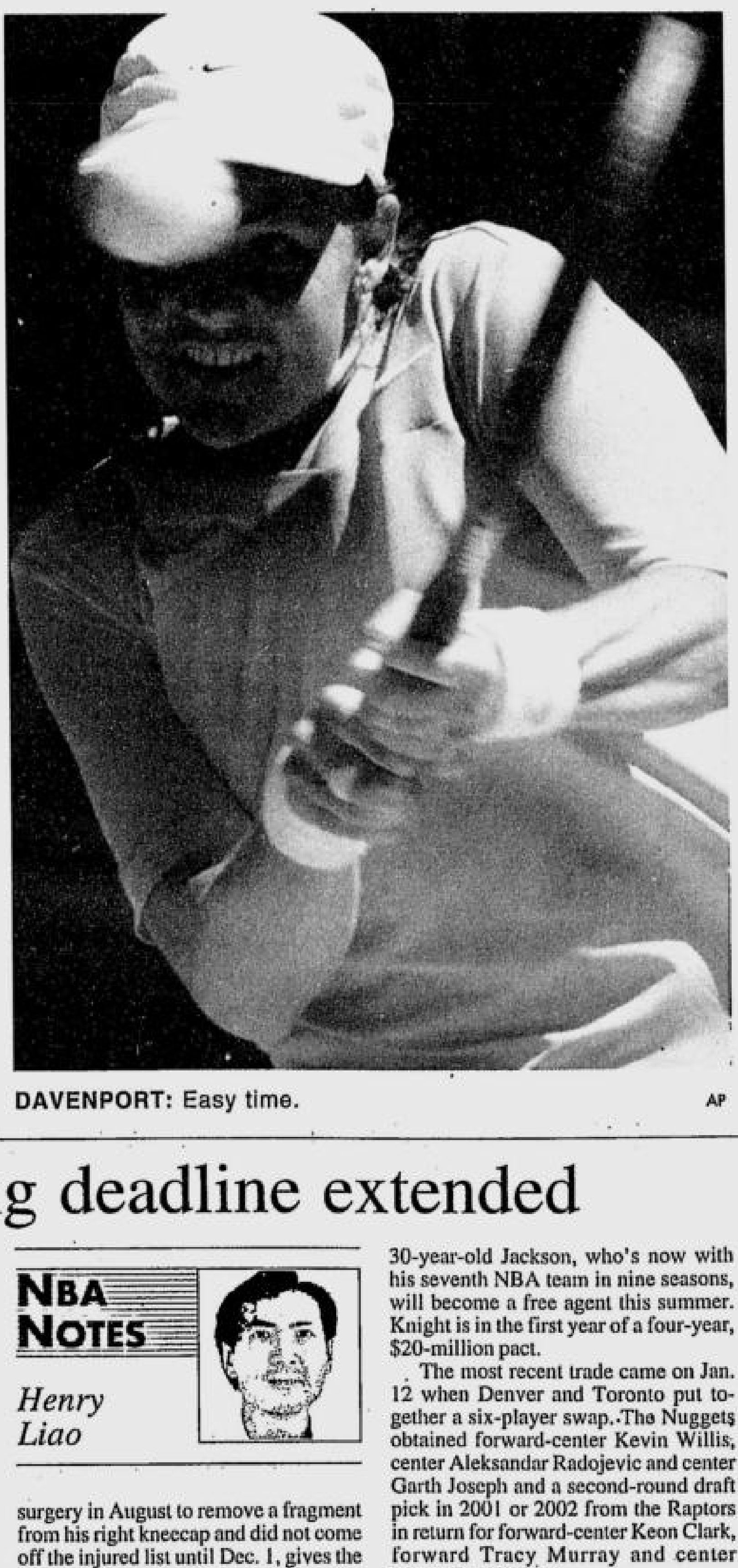
Thirteen seeded women made it through two rounds. Top-seeded Martina Hingis, who has lost three games so far, beat Els Callens 6-1, 6-0 Thursday. No. 3 Venus Williams defeated Meghann Shaughnessy 6-3, 7-6 (3). No. 6 Serena Williams eliminated Nadejda Petrova 6-3, 6-2.

Thirteen seeded men remained too, but No. 1 Gustavo Kuerten is gone. He lost to Greg Rusedski 4-6, 6-4, 6-3, 2-6, 9-7 in the final match Thursday. *AP*

Sampras, Agassi prevail

MELBOURNE, Australia—Pete Sampras might not have much energy left for the tough opponents yet to come in the Australian Open. The two-time champion survived his third consecutive tough match Friday, outlasting unheralded Juan Ignacio Chela 6-4, 4-6, 4-6, 7-5, 6-2 to reach the fourth round.

No. 6 Andre Agassi followed Sampras on center court, and he won when David Prinosil retired because of heat exhaustion after just 68 minutes. Agassi, who overcame a 6-2 deficit in the first set tiebreaker, led 7-6 (11), 5-0 when Prinosil quit. *AP*



DAVENPORT: Easy time. AP

US cockers to join fray in int'l meet

THE RACE for the "Mandaluyong Coliseum 9-Cock International Derby" champion elevates to a higher level as luminaries from the United States, United Cockers Association of the Philippines (Ucap) and the National Cockers Association (NCA) are all set to join the fray slated from Jan. 30 to Feb. 3.

Californians George Torres and Gerry Douglas are the newest additions to the roster of visiting gamecock specialists that will be joining the derby hosted by businessman-sportsman Vic Yu. This completes the roll of foreign participants composed of Chuck Berry, Paul Sparks, Bobby Jones, Travis Clark, Ruben Rodriguez, and Fil-Americans Greg Ayroso and Biboy Lazaro.

On the Ucap front, defending champion Danding Cojuangco fields his most formidable fighting cocks as it crosses paths with more than 60 other entries in this 3-night derby sponsored by Pagcor-Casino Filipino and Sagupaan Super Feeds. It can be recalled his Bumble Bee Balbina squad impressed fight fans after carving out nine perfect points in last year's international diadem.

After winning the 15-leg 1999-2000 Ucap Circuit Cocker of the Year award, the father-son duo of Jet and Joel Fernando together with handler Ramon Mencenares will also be a strong contender in this derby held in cooperation with Lakpue Drug Inc.

For details, call 747-4797, 534-4110, 531-4003 and 531-4005.

1st Ladies Bill Shaw tilt slated

AS AN aperitif to the men's event next week, the first Ladies Bill Shaw Memorial Golf Classic will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 23 at the exclusive Wack Wack Golf and Country Club.

The 18-hole ladies event will give lady members of Wack Wack the opportunity to play with an invited guest of their own with a separate package of prizes up for grabs.

Participants of the Ladies Bill Shaw will tee-off shotgun style starting at 9 a.m.

The regular Bill Shaw will be staged Jan. 26-27 with cars from Toyota, a vacation in Amanpulo, Northwest tickets to the US and Omega watches topping the many prizes on offer.

Organizing committee chair Tonichi Tuason and vice chair Bones Floro yesterday jointly announced that at least 200 two-man teams would dispute top honors.

Members of the Wack Wack board led by club president Ben Abalos are among the 152 teams which have signed up going to the last few days of registration.

Golforce, Tanduay Distillery, Citigold Priority Banking and Omega are backing the event as major sponsors while Toyota Balintawak, Toyota Motors Phils., Kymco, Parform/House of Kangaroo and Northwest Airlines are hole-in-one sponsors.

Format of play is best-ball with the maximum handicap for guests pegged at 24. They will play one round each at both courses.

Each Bill Shaw participant will be given the new model of Etonic shoes called the Difference as a giveaway.

Robertson shoots 62

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa—Scotland's Dean Robertson shot a record-breaking 10-under-par 62 Thursday, capturing the lead after the first round of the European Tour Alfred Dunhill Golf Championship played at the par-72 Royal Houghton Golf Club. Robertson beat the old record of 63 set by South Africa's David Frost in 1997. *AP*

Roligon Mega postpones derby

IN VIEW of the current national crisis, the management of Roligon Mega Cockpit has decided to postpone indefinitely the holding of its ongoing 11th anniversary derby. This is without prejudice to those who have already participated on the first two days of the derby.

"Roligon have taken into consideration the safety and welfare of its customers since cockers from the provinces have called informing us that as much as they have confirmed earlier that they are joining the derby, they are apprehensive of the events in Metro Manila", RMC's General Manager Rolando Luzong stated.

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

TENNIS: Australian Open, Elimination Round at 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. (r – 2 p.m.) on Sky Cable 17
BASKETBALL: NBA Action at 11 a.m. (r - 7:30 p.m.) on ESPN
NBA - Houston Rockets vs LA Lakers at 11:30 a.m. (r - 8 p.m.) on ESPN and Miami Heat vs Portland Trailblazers at 4 p.m. (r) on Star Sports
NBA Inside Stuff at 6:30 p.m. (r) on Star Sports
Chinese National Basketball League at 11:30 p.m. on Star Sports
US NCAA - Duke Blue Devils vs Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets tomorrow at 1 a.m.
GOLF: LPGA Arch Wireless Championship, Third Round at 4:30 p.m. on ESPN
The Players Championship Highlights at 10:30 p.m. (r) on Star Sports
AMERICAN FOOTBALL: Super Bowl XXVI Highlights - Washington Redskins vs Buffalo Bills at 6:30 p.m. (r) on ESPN
HORSE RACING: Racehorse Digest at 2 p.m. on ESPN
HOCKEY: NHL – LA Kings vs Toronto Maple Leafs at 8 a.m. (r) on ESPN

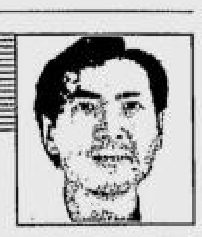
RACING TIPS

AT SAN LAZARO BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Better Harry 2. Scholar Girl
Race 2—1. Adrenalin 2. Lyonnais/Always 3. Kitana 4. Green Buck
Race 3—1. Gifted Guest 2. Hyperbid
Race 4—1. Perfect Gift 2. Penlace 3. Suterian Era 4. Bravada
Race 5—1. Uzisaki 2. Arrogante 3. Maria Nevada
Race 6—1. Daseldurf 2. Jean Pierre 3. Snowy's Best 4. Hearts on Fire
Race 7—1. Dixie Dancer 2. Fireball 3. Tiger Eye 4. Silent Wind
Race 8—1. Oneofakind 2. Tayp Ko Yan 3. Laser City
Race 9—1. Crisel Joy 2. Change for Keeps 3. Money Times Me 4. Prince Camran
Race 10—1. Johann Song 2. Ardo's Pride 3. Geewhizz
Race 11—1. Walang Hanggan 2. Magic Fingers 3. Top Liner 4. Clear Juice
Race 12—1. Irsih Star 2. Aurora Borealis 3. Gifted Galloper 4. Tenacity
Race 13—1. Leverage buyer 2. Affectionate 3. Altron 4. Nagniningning

Trading deadline extended

NBA NOTES



Henry Liao

THE NBA trading deadline falls on Feb. 22, exactly a week after it had originally been set.

Trade rumors have been going the rounds of the league since season's start but so far, only four transactions have been completed.

On Nov. 26, Miami utilized its $3.9 million medical exception (for kidney-troubled All-Star center Alonzo Mourning) to acquire journeyman frontliner Cedric Ceballos from Detroit for a conditional second-round draft choice.

Two days later, the LA Clippers pulled off a trade, sending forward Tyrone Nesby to the Washington Wizards for a couple of marginal players, forward-center Cherokee Parks and forward Obinna Ekezie. A throw-in, the 25-year-old Nigeria-born Ekezia was waived by the Clippers, gives Washington a legitimate small forward. Parks and Ekezie are eligible for free agency in July and Nesby's three-year, $8.9-million contract expires in 2002.

The third trade was consummated by a pair of Central Division clubs. Last Jan. 2. Cleveland, happy with the play of second-year pro Andre Miller at the point guard slot, shipped its old starting playmaker Brevin Knight to Atlanta for guards Jim Jackson, Anthony Johnson and Larry Robinson. A former PBA import for San Miguel and Mobiline, the 6-3 Robinson lasted only three days with the Cavaliers. The 5-10, 25-year-old Knight, who underwent surgery in August to remove a fragment from his right kneecap and did not come off the injured list until Dec. 1, gives the Hawks a solid one-guard to team with 6-1 Terry (who has tremendously jacked up his scoring average since switching to shooting guard early in December) in the backcourt. The 6-6, 30-year-old Jackson, who's now with his seventh NBA team in nine seasons, will become a free agent this summer. Knight is in the first year of a four-year, $20-million pact.

The most recent trade came on Jan. 12 when Denver and Toronto put together a six-player swap. The Nuggets obtained forward-center Kevin Willis, center Aleksandar Radojevic and center Garth Joseph and a second-round draft pick in 2001 or 2002 from the Raptors in return for forward-center Keon Clark, forward Tracy Murray and center Mamadou N'diaye.

The 7-2 Joseph, an undrafted player out of the College of St. Rose in New York, and the 7-foot N'diaye, the Nuggets' first-round draftee last June out of Auburn University, are NBA rookies. Joseph has seen limited action this campaign due to a groin injury and N'diaye never got to suit up for Denver because of a similar ailment.

Muray is back in his second tour of service with Toronto. He performed with the Raptors in 1995-96 and hit at a career-high 16.2-point clip. The 6-7, 29-year-old Ucla alum, a cousin of Cleveland Cavaliers forward Lamond Murray, was unhappy with his limited playing time under Denver coach Dan Issel and his trade request was granted by the Nuggets.

The 7-3 Radojevic, a 24-year-old, second-year pro out of Yugoslavia, has been on the injured list since season's start following back surgery.

PBL games postponed

THE PBL games scheduled for today will not push through, officials said last night. They said games will resume when the tense political climate normalizes.

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▨ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

MCC chessfest tomorrow

THE JANUARY edition of the Metropolitan Chess Club 2050 below active chess tournament reels off at 9:30 a.m. tomorrow at the 2/F PCI Bank Arcade in Greenhills Shopping Center in San Juan. Registrants are advised to sign up before the tournament starts at 10 a.m. Call 826-8560 for other details. Meanwhile, an MCC Open tournament is slated to start on Feb. 4.

DUREMDES DEAL

Mobiline breaks silence, defends move

"EVERYTHING was aboveboard."

Thus declared Mobiline alternate-governor Debbie Tan yesterday as she defended the Phone Pals' offer sheet to Philippine Basketball Association top wingman Kenneth Duremdes.

She said the team observed the proper procedure and protocol when Mobiline sought Duremdes' services.

Tan described as "unfortunate" its failure to bring Duremdes to the Phone Pals squad but said the team would continue to be competitive and remain focused in winning a first PBA championship when the league opens next week.

Tan's remarks came after Alaska matched the reported P48 million, seven-year offer by Mobiline.

The contract, which includes a generous bonus scheme, was reportedly the biggest in Philippine professional sports.

Tan said Mobiline already stepped back when it learned Duremdes was close to signing with the Aces.

Following another standoff with the Aces over some clauses in the contract, the Duremdes camp contacted Mobiline and said the wingman was still unsigned when talks began.

Though Mobiline gave no offer sheet to Duremdes, Tan said the team got the impression that Alaska will be open to discussion. But the Aces said no trade would be made.

As opposed to what is perceived by other quarters, she said Mobiline exhausted all means before deciding to formally lodge the proposed contract to Duremdes.

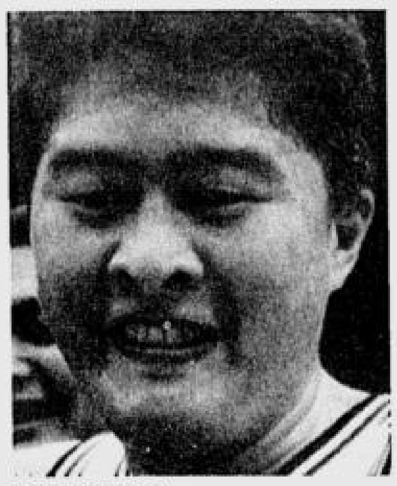
With PBA governor and Mobiline official Ignacius Yenko out of the country, Tan tried to contact Alaska Milk top honcho Wilfred Steven Uytengsu but failed to get in touch with the Alaska official.

It was team manager Joaqui Trillo who returned the call to Tan before Mobiline finally decided to lodge an offer sheet to Duremdes, who formally signed the multi-million offer.

Under the Mobiline offer, Duremdes will earn the maximum of P500,000 a month and also stands to receive a bonus package, which reportedly includes P1 million with another Most Valuable Player (MVP) award.

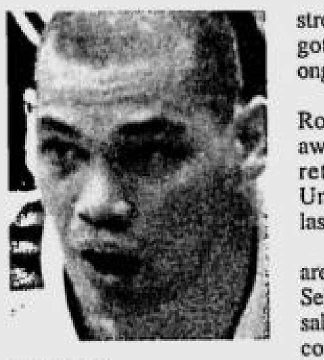
The Mobiline official said the effort to lure Duremdes has been an emotional issue and the team is happy that the cager and Alaska have finally come to terms.

TAN


DUREMDES

Danny Seigle wants only 1 year SMB deal

BY MARC ANTHONY REYES


SEIGLE

DANNY Seigle, the other half of San Miguel Beer's 1-2 punch, wants only a one-year contract with the Beermen in an apparent bid for him to play for a team together with brother Andy next season.

Sources said Danny Seigle wants to keep his options open when the 2001 PBA season ends. His elder brother, Andy Seigle, is with Purefoods.

The 6-foot-9 Andy's contract with Purefoods also expires at the end of the year.

There are reports that the Seigles are being groomed to form the core of Welcoat Paints when Welcoat finally jumps to the PBA next year.

However, there is still no assurance that the Paintmasters will be accommodated in the league by next season.

SMB manager Robert Non neither confirmed nor denied the report but stressed that the negotiations are still ongoing.

Seigle, the 1999 Rookie of the Year awardee, was set to return from the United States late last night.

Non said they are willing to give Seigle the maximum salary for five years, considering the 6-foot-6 guard's importance in the Beermen's four titles in the past five conferences.

Meanwhile, Non said Boybits Victoria already signed a two-year contract with the Beermen.

Victoria has been getting P350,000 with the Beermen during his previous contract with San Miguel. Non said that they are unlikely to sign up any of their five draftees.

In other developments, Barangay Ginebra has signed up Vergel Meneses for two years even as it made offer sheets to draftees Mark Caguioa, Marlon Basco and Marlon Piodo.

Alaska sends Hawkins to Tanduay

BY MARC ANTHONY REYES

CONE

ALASKA Milk last night traded Bong Hawkins to Tanduay Gold in line with the Aces' transformation from a mature, championship-savvy squad to a younger, promising bunch.

Alaska coach Tim Cone confirmed to the INQUIRER the trade that shipped the 6-foot-3 power forward to the Rhummasters in exchange of a future draft pick.

Hawkins was part of Alaska's dynasty in the '90s where the Aces won nine conference championships, including the PBA Grand Slam in 1996.

"I hate to let him go, but it's not my decision," said Cone. "It's very tough to see a magnificent core break up."

He was referring to the Aces' superb lineup of Hawkins, Kenneth Duremdes, Johnny Abarrientos, Jojo Lastimosa and Poch Juinio.

Of the starters, only Duremdes is staying in the fold following an agreement to an eight-year deal that would give the 6-foot-3 swingman about P80 million (see related story.)

Cone said the reason Alaska finally released Hawkins was because his salary—P500.000 monthly as based on his expired contract with Alaska—can no longer fit the team's salary cap.

The PBA pegged P35 million salary cap for each team.

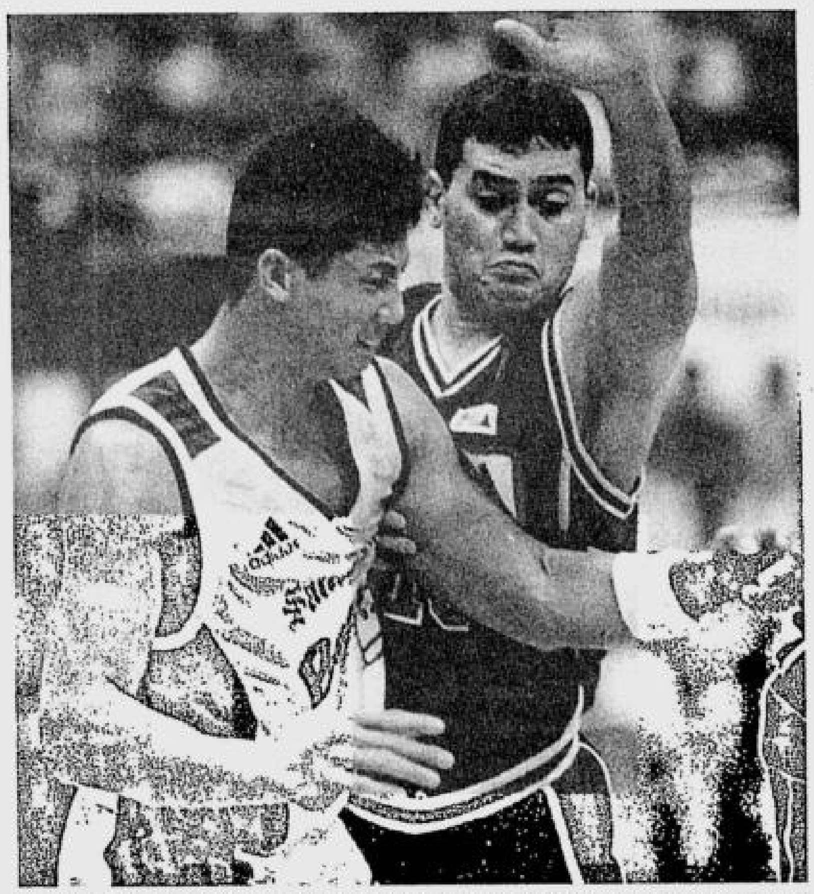
In an earlier interview, Alaska manager Joaqui Trillo said the team could only offer less than P300,000 monthly to the burly cager known for his tough stance inside and smooth shooting outside.

"It's a disrespect for Bong to cut his salary that much," said Cone. "But Tanduay is in a better position to give him what he deserves."

With Hawkins' departure, Cone is left with a younger, faster lineup in Duremdes, Rodney Santos, rookie John Arigo, John Ordonio, Ali Peek and Don Allado.

"I guess we can deal it from here," said Cone. "We still have a strong core."

Tanduay has been courting Hawkins even before the 2000 season ended because Fil-American slotman Eric Menk has yet to complete his immigration papers.


HAWKINS (right) in action against Danny Ildefonso of San Miguel Beer.

FILE PHOTO

PSC, Laguna gird for 'Pinoy' games

ASSURING that everything is organized and well-prepared, the Philippine Sports Commission and the Provincial Government of Laguna jointly welcomed the arrival yesterday of some 3,500 children-athletes and delegates from various local government units all over the country competing in the 2nd Philippine Youth Games-Batang Pinoy National Championships at the RECS Sports Complex in Sta. Cruz, Laguna.

Chair Carlos D. Tuason said the PSC and Laguna have already mobilized all their units and committees to ensure the smooth stay and participation of athletes and delegates in various designated billeting areas.

The PSC chief said Laguna set up more than 20 committees, manned by competent local officials and staff, to address the needs and concerns of delegates who come from 16 regions, including the National Capital Region, the ARMM and Caraga region.

"We are thankful of the kind of preparation and reception given by Laguna. The PSC can clearly feel the efforts being extended by the province," Tuason said.

To complement the preparation of Laguna, the PSC has formed parallel committees composed of its personnel to assist and administer other functions and tasks that are needed by delegates and participants.

"The PSC is closely coordinating with the provincial government of Laguna to put in effect safeguards to protect and ensure the safety of athletes from unexpected circumstances," said Commissioner William Ramirez, overall in charge of the Batang Pinoy program.

The PSC assured the 100 percent participation of concerned national sports associations with regard to the technical requirements of the Batang Pinoy Games.

Laguna Gov. Joey Lina, in a directive to provincial offices, reiterated his call to collectively work together to ensure the safety and condition of young children-athletes participating in the prioritized 16 sports disciplines.

"Our paramount concern is the welfare of the participants since this is a national sports festival for our children," Lina said. "The province has put up all the necessary requirements—from accommodation, transportation, medicine, and traffic to security and communications."

Jorge joins BAP row, seeks Dayrit's help

BY ROY LUARCA

FORMER Basketball Association of the Philippines head Nicanor Jorge has sought the help of Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit to resolve the issue that paved the way for the entry of Freddie Jalasco into the BAP hierarchy.

Jalasco himself has been stripped of the presidency by the national board during a special meeting on Wednesday in Angeles City.

In a letter dated Jan. 18, Jorge attached an En Banc decision by the Securities and Exchange Commission, ordering the BAP to change its corporate name because Jorge's group had already registered the same (Basketball Association of the Philippines, Inc.) on Dec. 22, 1994.

The incorporators were Gonzalo Puyat, Augusto Villanueva, Jorge, Lucrecio Calo and Rolando Omampo as incorporators and officers.

Jalasco's group got registered with the SEC, also as Bapi, on April 19, 1996. The incorporators and trustees were Puyat, Jalasco, Gregorio Narvasa II, Bonifacio Alentajan and Jaime Dichaves.

Puyat was the BAP president and Jorge the secretary general up to 1995.

During an emergency national board meeting on Aug. 14, 1995, Puyat declared himself as chair and appointed Jalasco as Bapi president.

Jorge's group questioned the manner adopted and unlawful means resorted to by Puyat and refused to accept the appointment of Jalasco, who was able to obtain a temporary restraining order and or writ of preliminary injunction.

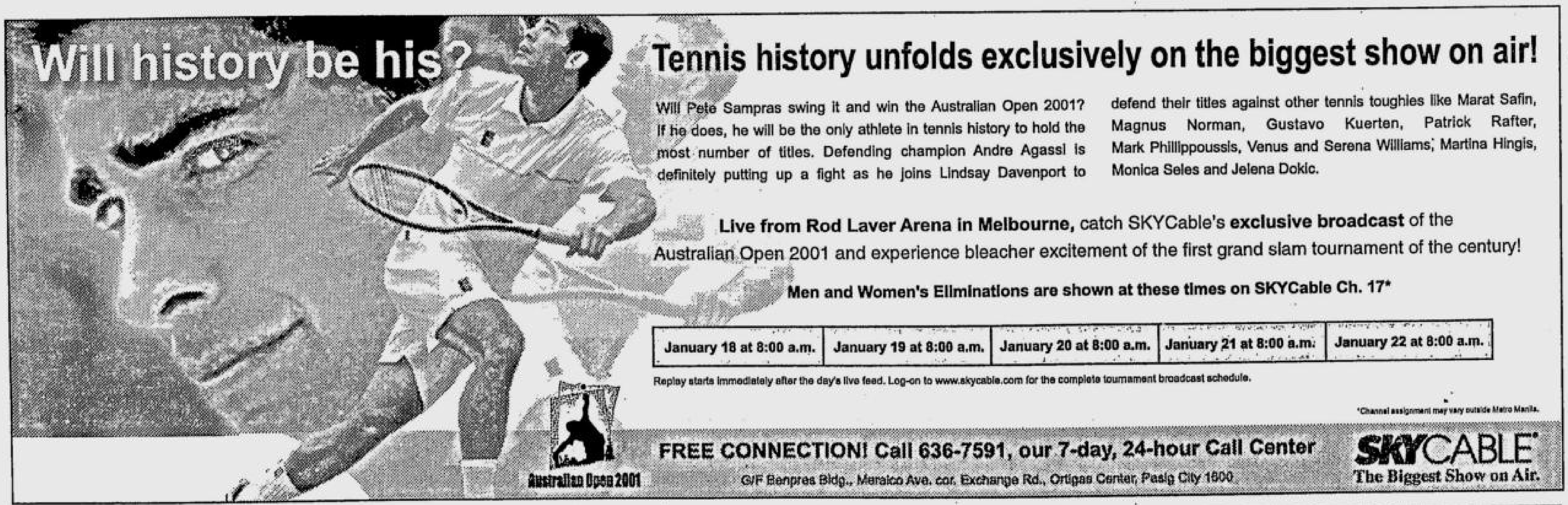
Jalasco's group took over when the Philippine Sports Commission, then headed by Philip Juico, ordered Jorge's group to vacate the BAP offices at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

New Zealander to Sonics

SEATTLE—The Seattle SuperSonics signed forward Sean Marks to a 10-day contract Thursday and placed forward Ruben Wolkowyski on the injured list because of a back strain.

The 6-foot-10 (2.09-meter) Marks was the first player from New Zealand to play in the National Basketball Association. He was a second-round choice of the New York Knicks in the 1998 NBA draft and played in 13 games the last two seasons with the Toronto Raptors.

Complete results: Indiana 84, Atlanta 76; Portland 85, Miami 74; Dallas 115, Orlando 106, OT; Detroit 116, Chicago 110; Houston 112, Golden State 104; Boston 82, L.A. Clippers 79. ***AP***



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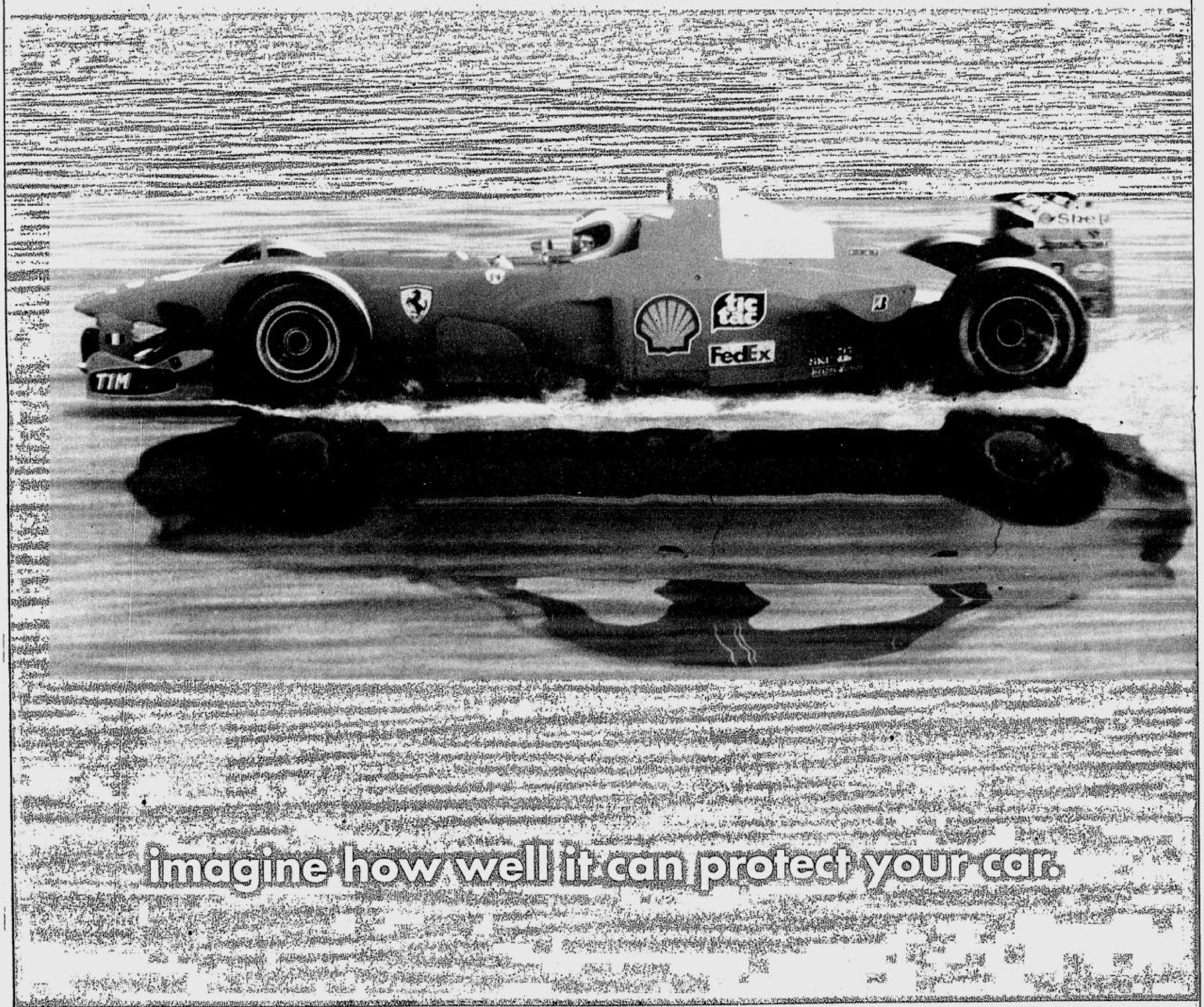

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who better to protect your car.

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

- **Binay, Aglipay, 9 others charged with boy's arrest** A24
- **Surgeons, Operation Smile in tie-up** A24
- **Clark can take Metro garbage, say officials** A25
- **Star power on Edsa** A25

Pro, anti ralliers clash in Makati

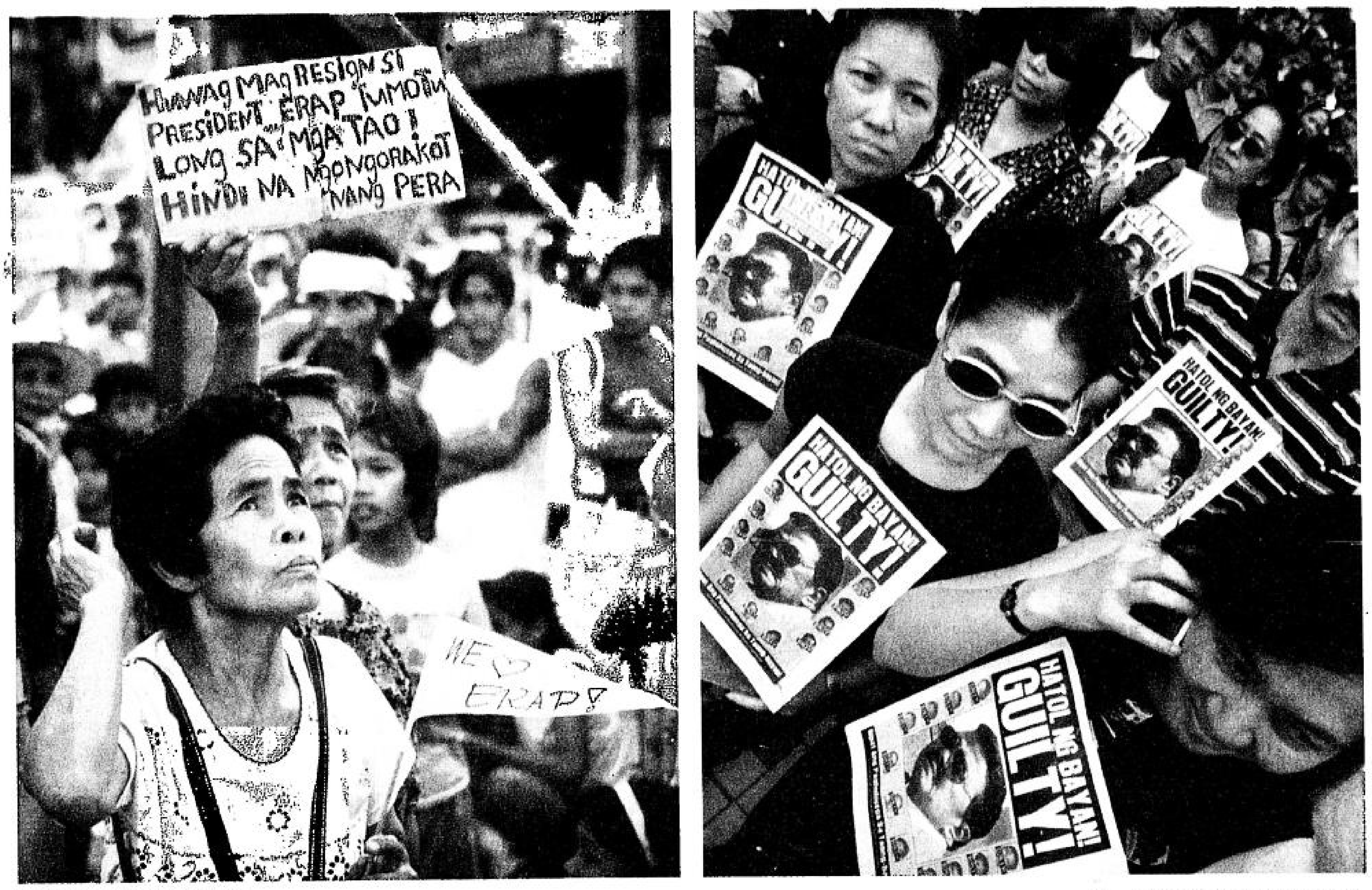
SCORES of people were hurt when pro-Estrada and anti-Estrada demonstrators clashed here about 10,000 supporters of President Estrada held a three-hour rally to denounce his political opponents.

Two of the injured were identified as Mercedes Villanueva, 60, of Payatas, Quezon City, and Roger Rosales, 22, of Pasay City.

They sustained minor head and body injuries when other demonstrators pelted them with stones and other debris.

Both Villanueva and Rosales are said to be from the group of Estrada supporters.

PRO, ANTI/ A25


Huwag Mag RESIGN SI PRESIDENT ERAP TUMOTU LONG SA MGA TAO ! HINDI NA NGONGORAKOT NANG PERA
WE ♡ ERAP!
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REMAIN VS RESIGN
Estrada supporters try to fill up Don Chino Roces near Malacañang (left), while men and women in black jam the Edsa Shrine.

MIKE ALQUINTO, DENNIS SABANGAN

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Third prize:	P 10,000		
GRAND DRAW PRIZES IN 4 AREAS*		**DRAW DATE**	**DEADLINE OF ENTRIES**
First prize:	P 500,000	April 27,2001	April 20,2001
Second prize:	P 200,000		
Third prize:	P 50,000		
15 Consolation prizes of P 10,000 each: P 150,000			

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BEAR BRAND GREAT MINDS RAFFLE

Binay, Aglipay, 9 others charged with boy's arrest

By Michael Lim Ubac

A POLICE director yesterday filed charges against several PNP officials, including Police Director Edgar Aglipay and Metropolitan Manila Development Authority chair Jejomar Binay, for the illegal arrest and arbitrary detention of his 11-year-son in connection with one of the Dec. 30 bombings.

In a complaint filed before the Office of the Ombudsman, Police Director Diony Ventura said Aglipay, Binay and nine others, committed criminal and administrative offenses when they arrested his son Emil Michael Vincent after a bomb exploded across the Dusit Hotel in Makati City.

Ventura also charged them with child exploitation and violation of Republic Act No. 7428.

Four other explosions rocked Metro Manila on Dec. 30, killing 22 people and injuring more than a hundred others.

Ventura was director of the PNP Directorate for Human Resource and Doctrines Development. He was relieved on Dec. 27, 1999 to allow him to finish his doctorate in peace and security administration.

Ventura accused Aglipay of trying to bribe his son with P10,000 to force him to confess to the crime.

Earlier, Binay admitted that he handed the boy P2,000 to persuade him "to admit participation to the bombing and to point out his accomplices."

Others named in Ventura's seven-page complaint were police superintendents Mario Cabigon, Gaudencio Cordura, Wilbur Naldo and Melchor Ysulat, PO2 Ronaldo Digman, and security guards Joel Orcajada and Benmar Datoon.

In his complaint, Ventura said that on Dec. 30, Emil Michael Vincent was supposed to meet his friend Jojie Lacandazo in front of the Dusit Hotel in Makati about 10:30 a.m.

But Emil Michael Vincent arrived at about 11:45 a.m. and missed Lacandazo, according to Ventura.

At about 1 p.m., the boy went to Dunkin' Donuts across the hotel for lunch. He went back to the hotel but did not see Lacandazo, so he decided to play with his toy racecar.

At about 2 p.m., he returned to the meeting place but could not find his friend. It was about this time that a bomb exploded at the Petron gas station across Dusit Hotel on Edsa, Ventura said.

"Young as he is, my son approached one of the Dusit Hotel guards and inquired what happened," Ventura said.

But Emil Michael Vincent was immediately detained and reportedly taken to the hotel basement. There, the boy was "subjected to harassment and investigation by a hotel security officer, one Col. Villenas, and other security guards," Ventura said.

He said security guards Orcajada and Datoon apprehended his son like a hardened criminal and allegedly even twisted his arm.

"My son had with him my ID picture in PNP uniform and my calling card," Ventura said. "He gave the security guard my name, the name of his mother, and our home address. Instead of trying to inform his parents, Col. Villenas turned him over to the Makati Police Office."

At the Makati Police Office, Binay reportedly intervened and bribed the young Ventura with P2,000.

"Aglipay also saw my son and allegedly promised him another P10,000, provided he 'cooperate' with police," Ventura claimed.

When the Ventura family went looking for the boy, officials at the Southern and Eastern Police Districts and the Makati Police Station allegedly gave them the runaround.

Ventura located his son at Fort Bonifacio where he was being interrogated. Ventura claimed his son's rights were violated because he was held incommunicado for 14 hours.

"My son is of tender age" and can be easily swayed, Ventura said. "He is a minor and he should not have been subjected to questioning by fearsome police officers who were also excited by how my son answered their questions, which incidentally he did not fully understand.

"He was not allowed to contact his parents or relatives. He was coerced and bribed to implicate other innocent persons in the bombing incident. Our parental rights were violated and we were not allowed to know our child was in detention; emotional distress was inflicted on us."

Ventura also lambasted presidential spokesperson and former ambassador Ernesto Maceda for maliciously dragging his name into the "alleged right-wing conspiracy of retired generals to destabilize the Estrada administration."

Ventura was administrative officer of former President Fidel Ramos when the latter was chief of the defunct Philippine Constabulary.

Erap's big mistakes

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

AS THIS column was being written, the big guns in the Armed Forces of the Philippines led by no less than Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado and AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Angelo Reyes have withdrawn their support for President Estrada.

Most of the military generals, including, ironically, Air Force Chief Lt. Gen. Benjamin Defensor, brother of Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago who is a staunch defender of the President, have also withdrawn their support for Mr. Estrada.

Until yesterday afternoon, Mr. Estrada was confident of the military establishment's support. Nobody told him the military generals were already plotting against him.

In short, the President was isolated from what was happening outside Malacañang.

***

Mr. Estrada made a big mistake when he insulted retired generals who gave him advice to reform. He underestimated the influence these "old soldiers" had over the top officers of the military and the Philippine National Police(PNP).

Somebody should have told him the military is one big fraternity, where the younger officers look up to their elders even if they are already out of the service.

***

Mr. Estrada also made the mistake of persecuting his immediate predecessor, Fidel V. Ramos, who is former AFP chief of staff.

The President criticized Ramos at every turn, blaming him for the country's current economic woes and corruption in government when he himself is the only one to blame.

The military generals saw Ramos as the underdog and rallied behind him.

If there's anybody who should get the biggest credit for bringing down Mr. Estrada, it's Fidel V. Ramos.

***

The ignorant and poor masses who compose Mr. Estrada's power base, have awakened to his corruption and incompetence.

The active generals and colonels were once the subordinates of the now retired generals. The present generals and other top brass in the military still seek the counsel of the retired generals in running the country.

***

The President has been saying the *masa* would stand by him through thick and thin. What he didn't know was that although they're ignorant, they can also make decisions for themselves.

The small crowd at Mendiola—compared to the crowd at Edsa Shrine—was an indication of Mr. Estrada's dwindling popularity with the poor people.

***

Former "superstar" Nora Aunor's joining the clamor for Mr. Estrada to step down was not a surprise to people who know about her relationship with the President.

Aunor has been disappointed with the way Erap has been treating her vis a vis his other mistresses.

Miss Aunor was the apple of the eyes of Joseph Estrada in the 1970s, the height of her popularity.

***

My sources in show business, as well as some of the President's minor cronies, say Mr. Estrada and Nora never broke up despite her marriage and her relationships with other men.

"*Hindi nakikipaghiwalay si* Erap *sa kanyang mga* girlfriends. *Sila ang humihiwalay sa kanya* (Erap does not break with his girlfriends. They are the ones who leave him)," said an Aunor fan. "*Hindi sila naghiwalay ni* Erap *mula't sapul* (They have not parted ways)," she said of the President and Aunor.

The President is said to have been giving Ms Aunor a monthly support of P200,000 through one of his minor cronies.

In contrast, Joy Melendres, one of Erap's mistresses, reportedly receives P200,000 every week for shopping.

***

"*Masyadong nasaktan si* Guy *sa balita na malaki ang mga tinatanggap ng mga* mistresses *pero siya maliit lang* (Guy was hurt when she found out the other mistresses were receiving more money than her)," said the longtime fan and *alalay*.

Guy had reason to get hurt, according to Aunor's gofer. She was Erap's No. 1 campaigner when he ran for senator, vice president and president. And yet, Erap treats her as a doormat.

When Aunor was earning millions of pesos at the height of her popularity, she was the President's milking cow, this source said.

"*Hinuthut ni* Erap *ang pera ni* Guy (Erap took her money)" said Aunor's gofer.

I can believe that statement. When I covered the Court of Appeals for the Times Journal in 1976, I came across a complaint filed by Aunor's mother against Mr. Estrada and Aunor. The complaint stemmed from Aunor giving him a big house, which her mother said should have been given to her. The case reached the appellate court.

'Seize the opportunity'

THERE IS opportunity in adversity.

Philippine Tourism Authority general manager Nixon Kua's on Wednesday gave this message to the tourism industry as he challenged the major industry players to unite and seize the opportunity presented by the rising value of the dollar against the peso.

Yesterday, however, the peso-dollar rate suddenly went up to P47 yesterday from an all-time low of almost P55 on Wednesday amid defection from the Estrada camp of key government officials, including Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado and Armed Forces Chief of Staff Angelo Reyes.

Speaking during the induction rites of new officers of the Philippine Tour Operators Association, Kua said it was time for the tourism family to set aside differences and unite to be able to achieve tourism's potential as an "engine of economic growth" for the country.

"Let us have no more of the petty misunderstandings of the past," he said. "Let us sit down together and find out how we can best go about this business of selling the country."

Kua said the tourism industry could help jumpstart the economy by becoming the country's number one dollar-earner.

Most Filipinos might see the value of the dollar against the peso as a cause of concern, Kua said.

"But this should be seen as an opportunity knocking on our doors," he said. "The Philippines is the best place right now for tourists to get a lot more for their dollars in terms of products, services and hospitality."

Kua added that it is only a matter of getting this message across while selling the country's world-class attractions like white sand beaches.

He said nearby markets like the Japan, Korea, Taiwan and China should be targeted with emphasis on getting more value for dollars.

During these trying times, Kua said, the kind of government and private sector synergy in the development of Boracay's tourism industry should be replicated on a national scale.

With government protecting Boracay's pristine waters and providing the much-needed infrastructure development and the private sector investing and promoting the world-renowned destination, Boracay has recovered from the coliform scare of 1997 and posted last year a phenomenal growth rate in tourist arrivals.

Once voted as the best tropical beach in the world, Boracay posted revenues of P1.3, billion last year from 229,761 visitors—50,000 more than the tourists who came in 1999.

The case of Semirara Island in Antique is another example, Kua said. A united private sector and tourism family in the government prevented the move to turn the turtle sanctuary near Boracay into a dump for Metro Manila's waste.

Medals of valor for 2 cops who died in Dec. 30 blast

By Juliet Avellana

THE TWO valiant police officers who died in the Rizal day bombings have not been forgotten.

Yesterday, the Senate blue ribbon committee awarded medals of valor for the heroism of Police Insp. Nestor Salvador and SPO4 Roberto Gutierrez, and gave their widows P50,000 each to help tide over their families.

The bereaved families of the two police officers were also given more than P500,000 each in insurance benefits, P100,000 each from President Estrada, P50,000 each from the PNP, and housing commitment from Executive Secretary Edgardo Angara.

They were also posthumously promoted two ranks higher.

The families of the dead police officers were feted in a simple lunch attended by Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr., Senate Majority Leader Francisco Tatad, Senators Juan Flavier, Gregorio Honasan and Robert Jaworski; PNP Chief Panfilo Lacson and other PNP officials; Executive Secretary Edgardo Angara, Interior Secretary Alfredo Lim, and ambassadors or representatives of the United States, Malaysia, Australia and other countries.

"As Senate president, I deem it a privilege for us to posthumously confer on them the medals of valor of the (blue ribbon) committee, the first this year to be awarded," Pimentel said.

"Mrs. Zosima Sadoria Salvador and Mrs. Diana Aida Quintos Gutierrez, you and your children have every right to be proud that your husbands and their fathers have by their exemplary conduct shown that in this republic, we still have people who value duty, honor and country," Pimentel said.

Pimentel said the dead officers have shown that "despite the ignominious times we are passing through, there are indeed public servants whom the people can look up to and emulate in terms of selfless dedication to public service."

"Their heroism, incidentally, is also a public rebuke to all in public service who took their stint in government as a means of acquiring more wealth," Pimentel said in his speech.

Angara said financial help would never compensate for the loss of the two police officers. But he gave his commitment that government housing for their families would be "attended to immediately."

Surgeons, Operation Smile in tie-up

THE MOTHER organization of Filipino plastic surgeons and the local chapter of the world's largest humanitarian organization dedicated to treating facial deformities have formalized a partnership that will benefit thousands of poor Filipino children.

The two organizations are the Philippine Association of Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons (Papras) and Operation Smile Philippines Foundation Inc.

With the formal agreement, more board-certified Filipino plastic surgeons will participate in Operation Smile's medical missions in areas not covered by the organization's better known annual missions composed of international medical teams. These missions are conducted in the Philippines every February.

Papras president Dr. Conrado G. De Gracia and Operation Smile president Edith Yotoko-Villanueva signed the memorandum of agreement on behalf of their respective organizations.

"Our partnership with Operation Smile gives Papras a concrete opportunity to fulfill its social responsibility," said Dr. De Gracia. "We are happy to support this organization, which has done much to address a widespread, yet easily treatable, medical condition among indigent Filipinos."

"We at Operation Smile are delighted with the support of Papras," said Mrs. Yotoko-Villanueva, who also represents the 3rd district of Negros Occidental in the House of Representatives. "The founder of Operation Smile, Dr. Bill Magee, has stated that Filipino plastic surgeons are the best in the world, and this agreement is certainly a major advance in fulfilling Operation Smile's mandate of providing free quality surgery to poor children."

The signing was held at the Makati head office of the United Coconut Planters Bank, whose chair, Jeronimo Kilayko, is also chair of Operation Smile Philippines.

Prior to the institutionalized partnership, individual Papras members participated as volunteers in Operation Smile medical missions in the Philippines as well as overseas. Operation Smile has also long had Papras members in its medical advisory board.

To-date, Operation Smile has provided free surgery to more than 10,000 Filipino patients (mostly children) since its first medical mission in the Philippines 18 years ago.

Korea-RP 'friendship hospital' starts rising in Trece Martires

CONSTRUCTION of the Korea-Philippine Friendship Hospital in Cavite started on Wednesday.

Byoung Ck Yoo, inspector of the Onnuri Construction Co. Ltd., the winning bidder in Korea for the construction of the project, with Hannin Corp. as Philippine counterpart, arrived on Monday in Trece Martires City for the start of the construction.

Gak-Pyo Lee, principal architect of the project, also arrived Monday.

Cavite Gov. Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr. said the 100-bed hospital would benefit Cavite residents, particularly the poor.

The $3.9-million hospital is rising at the sprawling 17-hectare capitol complex beside the Andres Bonifacio Memorial Hospital.

Dr. Ma. Vilma V. Diez, provincial health officer, said the hospital is a big boost to the health care and medical services programs in the province.

In addition to the hospital proper, an extension clinic will be built at the Cavite Export Processing Zone in Rosario, Cavite for the benefit of workers and residents of adjoining towns.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, January 20, 2001
2nd Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: *Heb 9:2-3, 11-14*

Gospel: *Mk 3:20-21*

Jesus and his disciples went home. The crowd began to gather again and they couldn't even have a meal. Knowing what was happening his relatives came to take charge of him: "He is out of his mind," they said.

Commentary:

I have heard about parents who have gone to court to stop a son or a daughter from entering religious life or pursuing what they consider a non-career. The more dramatic cases involve old rich families who are particularly dismayed when the potential heirs to their business empires have no interest in material wealth. They react as Jesus' family must have reacted, "He's out of his mind." They hope against hope that their children would eventually outgrow their outlandish dreams. It takes time before parents get to understand their children's vocation. This is particularly difficult especially for those who behave like stage parents. It takes time before they learn to respect the choices their children make as they enter into adulthood. Somehow, they have to grow with their children, and often the hard way.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., U.P. Village, Diliman, Quezon City, U.P. P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cnl.net; Website: http://www.cnl.net/claret

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

LEGAL MEDICINE—Medical malpractice—Petitioner's action is for medical malpractice. This is a particular form of negligence which consists in the failure of a physician or surgeon to apply to his practice of medicine that degree of care and skill which is ordinarily employed by the profession generally, under similar conditions, and in like surrounding circumstances. In order to successfully pursue such a claim, a patient must prove that the physician or surgeon either failed to do something which a reasonably prudent physician or surgeon would have done, or that he or she did something that a reasonably prudent physician or surgeon would not have done, and that the failure or action caused injury to the patient. There are thus four elements involved in medical negligence cases, namely: duty, breach, injury and proximate causation. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Mendoza, Second Division, Reyes v. Sisters of Mercy Hospital, G.R. No. 130547, October 3, 2000]

Digest by R.B. Vera

Orientation for parents

THE MANILA Waldorf School will hold a free orientation for parents and guardians seeking a healthy, wholesome education for their children ages 2 to 12 years old, nursery through grade 6.

The orientation, aimed at introducing "a creative approach to educating the whole child through hands, heart and head," will be held today from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

The school, located at 3 corner Vinzon and Jose Abad Santos streets in Heroes Hills, Quezon City, will have an open house on Feb. 8.

For more information, call the school at 374-29-22.

Truck drivers, helpers hunted for sugar theft

MANILA police are hunting down the drivers and helpers of two trucks whose cargo of 1,000 sacks of sugar worth P1.3 million was reported stolen on Monday.

Senior Insp. Eduardo Cruz, head of the Western Police District's theft and robbers section, said Rosita Mendoza, 25, owner of the Authority Trading Corp. in Valenzuela City, filed theft charges against truck drivers Danilo Godines and Reynaldo Laparan and their helpers, Godines' cousin Nonoy and Crisanto Sastrellas.

The four men, all of whom were Mendoza's employees, are suspected of being responsible for the loss of the cargo.

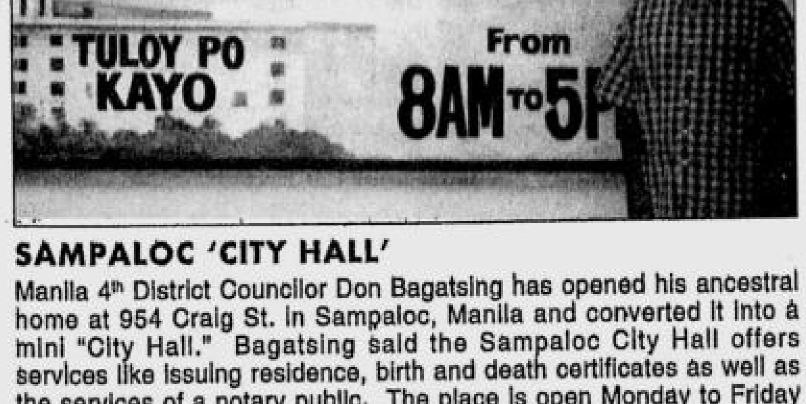
Mendoza said she ordered the Godineses, Laparan and Sastrellas to go the Don Pedro Azucarera in Nasugbu, Batangas on the morning of Jan. 12 to fetch her order of 1,000 sacks of sugar.

The four men used two trucks, an Izusu (WHB-919) and a Fuso (WTG-192), which Mendoza owned.

Mendoza said the trucks did not return. She said she called Nasugbu but the sugar mill manager said the sugar was released to her workers.

The empty and abandoned trucks were found by barangay *tanod* members at about 7 p.m. Monday along San Lazaro Street in Sta. Cruz.

Jerome Aning



SAMPALOC 'CITY HALL'

Manila 4th District Councilor Don Bagatsing has opened his ancestral home at 954 Craig St. in Sampaloc, Manila and converted it into a mini "City Hall." Bagatsing said the Sampaloc City Hall offers services like issuing residence, birth and death certificates as well as the services of a notary public. The place is open Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

QC junk man shot dead

A SCRAP metal dealer was shot dead Tuesday in his house in Quezon City.

Manuel Tan-Ho, 49, of J. P. Rizal Street, Barangay Sta. Lucia, was found dead in the sala of his home with a head bullet wound, said investigator SPO4 Rafael de Peralta.

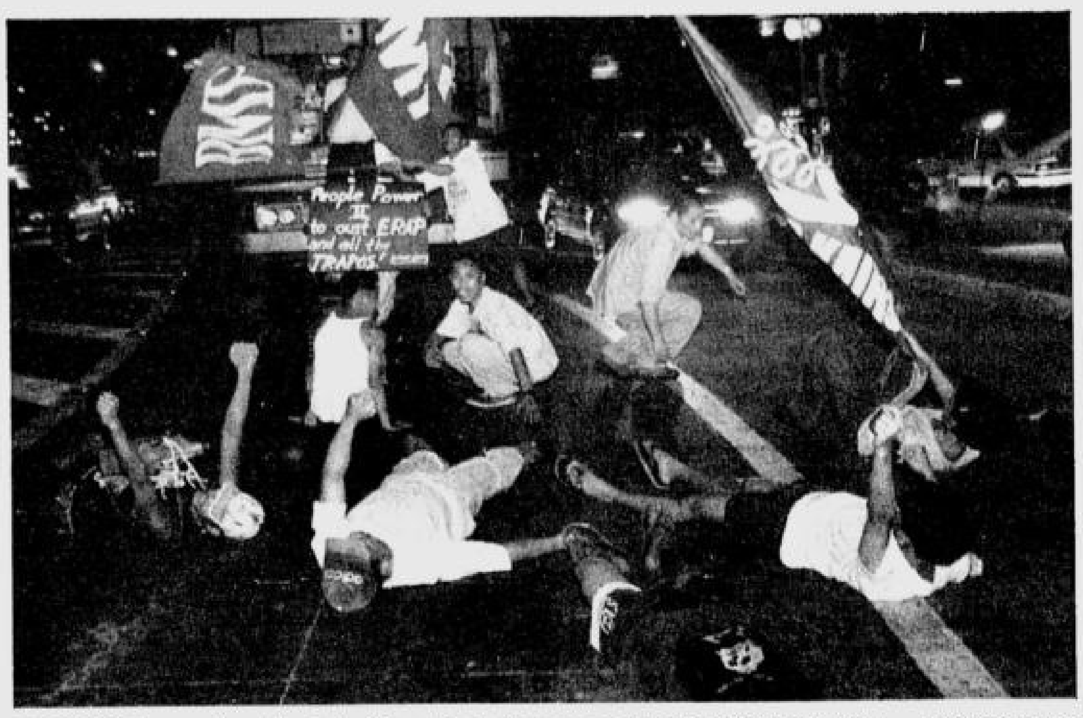
The bullet went in through the back of his left ear and went out through his right ear, De Peralta added.

"He said he first heard a woman shouting 'No' from inside the victim's house," De Peralta said. "Then a shot rang out."

Galvez said he then saw a woman and another man flee from Tan-Ho's home.

De Peralta said police are now investigating whether the victim was robbed.

Philip C. Tubeza



SANLAKAS members block traffic on East Avenue near Edsa in Quezon City. ERNIE SARMIENTO

Star power on Edsa

By Cathy C. Yamsuan

LOPEZ

PAREDES

SHE played a whore in one of his movies where he portrayed the role of a jeepney driver who led a community near Clark Air Base against the abuses of American servicemen.

Even then, former bold actress Maria Isabel Lopez yesterday said she knew that the movie they made together, "Sa Kuko ng Agila," with then Quezon City Rep. Nikki Coseteng as the female lead, was then Sen. Joseph Estrada's bid for the presidency.

"At that time, I was determined to support him," Lopez said yesterday. "But look at the way things have turned out."

Lopez was one of many show business figures who joined the throng at the Edsa Shrine yesterday.

"Maybe, God wants to tell us something that's why this is happening to our country," she said. "God wants to expose the sins of the system and its leaders. It's too bad that Mr. Estrada is the one in Malacañang when all of this has to happen."

Like the outspoken Rosanna Roces, who recently added her voice of protest to the hundreds of thousands shouting in the streets for President Estrada to resign, Lopez was also seen attending the ongoing anti-Estrada rally at the Edsa shrine, in what is now known as People Power 2.

But Lopez, who has had her share of the limelight and the pitfalls of fame, including an arrest for possession of illegal drugs, was honest enough to admit that she was in Edsa because she was envious of former starlet Laarni Enriquez, one of Estrada's mistresses.

She said Enriquez's lavish lifestyle not only makes her cringe with envy, it also makes her want to ask Jean Saburit, a bosom buddy of the presidential mistress, to join the people to Edsa calling for Mr. Estrada's resignation.

"Laarni is also a friend of mine and I saw her lifestyle and I am so envious of this lifestyle," Lopez admitted to the INQUIRER as she watched the Edsa scene from the second-floor outdoor terrace of the shrine.

She singled out the scandalously huge Wack-Wack mansion that Estrada was said to have built for his favorite mistress.

"No, I haven't been there but Jean Saburit *yata* has seen it," she said. "Jean is so loyal to Laarni, but I'll try to pull her here."

Beyond her jealousy of Enriquez's luck, Lopez said she is concerned about how the recent turn of events has adversely affected her retailing business.

She operates a small store at the Robinsons Galleria, a stone's throw away from the Edsa Shrine.

"All these things happening right now are directly affecting our operations," she said. "You know how hard things really are when you are in business," she said.

Not every 14 years

Veteran entertainers and ralliers have come in full force to the Edsa shrine. One of them is singer-songwriter Jim Paredes of Apo Hiking Society, who is now a constant presence in anti-Erap rallies the way he had been 14 years ago also in Edsa.

"We cannot be doing this every 14 years," Paredes said.

"But exercises like this will hopefully speed up the democratic process to people's expectations," he added. "I expect us to handle this second chance better."

After the assassination in 1983 of former Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr., Paredes, with Apo's Danny Javier and Boboy Garrovillo, were among the courageous artists who used their art to enlighten people about changes needed in society.

Artists like the Apo were among the millions of Filipinos on Edsa in February 1986 when Ferdinand Marcos was ousted from office. Paredes feels, however, that justice was not fully served then.

"What we gave (the dictator) was cheap justice," he complained.

All fire

She may have been tagged an ice queen, but pop diva Kuh Ledesma is all fire when it comes to Estrada's ouster.

Like Paredes, she thinks the abusers were not made to pay for their crimes "since the Filipino easily forgets."

This time, Ledesma wishes that the masses would have more participation in a political exercise, especially following the decision of Nora Aunor, a popular icon among them, to join the anti-Estrada forces.

"So far, the majority of those who participate in rallies like this are those with jobs and are informed. Hopefully, the Filipino masses would be influenced because it is they whose lives have not at all changed for the better."

ABS-CBN talent Winnie Cordero hopes that Fernando Poe Jr. would follow Aunor's defection and join the crowd at Edsa. This would probably be a long shot considering the close friendship of "Da King" to Mr. Estrada, but no one also expected Aunor's turn of heart.

Cordero is also optimistic that "this exercise will force Mr. Estrada to resign. I think he won't finish his term. The moral ascendancy is already shaky and the Filipinos are already awake and thinking of his replacement."

Rebirth

Aside from Mr. Estrada's resignation, Cordero also wants genuine political reforms to come in place in the aftermath of another Edsa phenomenon.

"And that more Filipinos will become more mature," she said. "Following this episode, I think the people will realize the moral and spiritual dimensions of this exercise, like a rebirth."

But Ledesma predicts that the outrage sparked by Estrada's alleged immoral activities would still not discourage voters from choosing actors as their leaders in future elections.

"The star power and influence will always be there," she said. "Unfortunately, a lot of people are very apathetic."

But Ledesma, the Apo's Paredes, and their ilk are optimistic that not only will this reprise Edsa in 1986, which rid the country of another unwanted leader.

They also hope that a repeat of People Power will make Filipinos take a second look at their political attitudes, make more mature decisions about the future and wise in general.

Pro, anti ralliers clash in Makati

(From page A23)

The pro-Estrada marchers were heading toward the statue of Ninoy Aquino on Ayala Avenue about 12:30 p.m., when they were met by heckling Makati office workers lining Paseo de Roxas.

Police said the nonstop heckling by both sides led to an outbreak of violence at the corner of Ayala and Paseo de Roxas.

Witnesses said police were slow to respond, coming in a good 30 minutes after stones started to fly.

"We did not expect this kind of situation," said Insp. Nicasio Medina of the Makati City police.

Ian Poblete, an Ayala-based worker, said that when the violence erupted, police acted "as if nothing happened."

But Senior Insp. Edgardo Balmaceda, Makati police operations division chief, denied the charge, saying that he and his 300 men did their best to maintain peace and order by keeping the two forces away from each other.

The office workers, most of whom stood outside the Philippine Stock Exchange, started chanting "Erap Resign" and flashed thumbs-down signs at around 12:30 p.m.

Estrada's supporters, mostly urban poor, responded with the thumbs-up signs and dirty fingers.

Witnesses said several Estrada supporters were armed with sharp sticks and appear to be intoxicated. They noted a number of these marchers were teeners who chanted pro-Estrada slogans while flashing dirty-finger signs.

The heckling escalated when the anti-Estrada crowd shouted "*Hakot! Uwi na kayo*" and "*Erap bobo.*" They flashed thumbs-down signs and the thumb and forefinger sign suggesting that the marchers were paid off.

Pro-Estrada demonstrators responded with curses and more obscene gestures.

Witnesses said carbon paper rained down on pro-Estrada marchers from Makati office windows.

Suddenly, stones and small potted plants lining the avenue's center island started to fly from the pro-Estrada camp, sending office workers scampering for cover.

This reporter clearly heard pro-Estrada organizers goading their members to "attack" ("*Sugurin niyo!*").

At the front of the Philippine Stock Exchange, pro-Estrada marchers lighted a firecracker and the explosion was heard across Ayala Avenue.

After that, witnesses saw pro-Estrada marchers throwing stones at the Ayala workers who scampered away. Some from the anti-Estrada crowd returned fire.

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. later appeared at about 1:30 p.m. to convince pro-Estrada marchers to go home and avoid trouble. He also went over to the anti-Estrada side to pacify them.

But instead of welcoming Magsaysay's presence, the pro-Estrada marchers booed him and urged him to go away.

While pro- and anti-Estrada forces clashed, a short program was staged by some politicians still loyal to the President, among them Taguig Mayor Ricardo Papa, Palawan Gov. Edward Hagedorn, Manila Councilor Butch Belgica, Metro Manila Development Authority chair Jejomar Binay.

At the Rizal Capitol compound in Pasig City, the INQUIRER saw P100-bills being distributed to urban poor residents who joined the pro-Estrada rally in Makati City.

About 5,000 residents had gathered at the capitol compound at about 12 noon.

A certain Bobby Mina, said to be an employee of the Pasig City Internal Audit Office, was seen handing bundles of money to organizers of different barangays.

Mina was on board a blue Tamaraw FX (SEV 874), which had the sign "For Official Use, City of Pasig."

With reports from Alcuin Papa, Nelson Flores, Agnes Donato

Clark can take Metro garbage, say officials

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—Metro Manila's garbage can be dumped in an interim site and in a 100-hectare sanitary landfill in the Tarlac side of this zone.

Base conversion officials announced this on Wednesday after the Department of Environment and Natural Resources approved an environmental compliance certificate (ECC) for the Clark landfill project.

Rogelio Singson, chair of both the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) and the Clark Development Corp. (CDC), said it was "OK" that the interim dump, to be operational in 30 days, and the soon-to-be built landfill in Barangay Kalangitan in Capas, Tarlac, would take in trash from some parts of Metro Manila.

The landfill, expected to be operational for 25 years, will become the permanent dump of companies at the economic zone, of towns and cities around Clark and other Central Luzon provinces, Singson told reporters here.

Waste disposal had long been a problem in Clark. For almost a century that the United States maintained the former Clark Air Base, it had not built a landfill or a permanent dump. It instead hired local contractors to dispose of waste in nearby Angeles City and Mabalacat town.

As designed, the landfill can contain 700,000 tons of trash a year or 2,000 tons a day.

A consortium and the CDC will charge P880 for every ton of trash, Singson said.

The German consortium Ingenieurburo Birkhahn + Nolte GmbH and Heers & Brockstedt Gmbh and its local representative, BN Consultants Philippines Inc., is constructing and managing the P368.5-million landfill, deemed the first and the biggest in Central Luzon.

The landfill received an ECC last week from the DENR. Its environment impact assessment (EIA) passed the DENR's requirements in November.

The DENR considers landfills environmentally critical projects.

The international environmental group Greenpeace, the health group Nutrilinc, private sector representatives to the Regional Development Council (RDC), regional officials of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, local officials, church leaders and residents of Tarlac have protested against the landfill since last year.

Greenpeace raised the risk of groundwater contamination of the Sacobia and Bamban rivers.

Also on Wednesday, Flagship Projects Undersecretary Manuel Gaite said the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) has not opened or has not been operating a controlled dumpsite or sanitary landfill in Mariveles, Bataan and in San Marcelino, Zambales.

Without citing the reason, Gaite said the Mariveles dumpsite project did not materialize although it was being considered until last December.

The Dizon Copper-Silver Mines Inc. (DCSMI), which proposed a sanitary landfill in Barangay Buhawen in San Marcelino, did not participate in the offer of the MMDA to operate an interim facility.

What the DCSMI wanted was a long-term contract for a sanitary landfill, Gaite said. The DCSMI site in Buwahen was also not considered, he added.

Gaite also clarified that Flagship Projects Secretary Robert Aventajado earlier identified Mariveles and never San Marcelino as a possible site for a controlled dumpsite or a landfill.

It was the pit mine in Semirara Island in Antique province that was approved for the MMDA's interim disposal site, Gaite said.

Due to strong opposition from residents, President Estrada last week ordered the MMDA and its contractors to suspend the dumping of Metro Manila's garbage on Semirara Island.

In Zambales, DCSMI officer-in-charge Jaime Tongol said his company wanted an "honest-to-goodness" sanitary landfill in its former mining site in Buhawen, a mountain village.

Tongol also confirmed that DCSMI turned down the request of the MMDA to operate an interim dump in Dizon mines.

The barangay council in Buhawen last April endorsed DCSMI's sanitary landfill proposal.

Zambales Rep. Antonio Diaz had opposed the proposal since 1999.

Residents back LP trash program

THE FEDERATION of Las Piñas Homeowners' Association (Folpha) has pledged full support for the city government's garbage segregation and backyard composting campaign.

The support was articulated by Dr. Bonifacio Dazo, president of the homeowners' association, during the recent induction of its officers.

Folpha is an alliance of 120 member associations in the city.

Mayor Vergel Aguilar and the officers of the association agreed to push for the vigorous implementation of garbage segregation and recycling in all the villages to help reduce the volume of garbage produced in the city every day.

The city government sends out its more than 40 garbage compactor trucks every day around the city to collect the garbage.

THE PHILIPPINE SOCIETY
OF ENDOCRINOLOGY AND METABOLISM, INC.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Board of Directors of the Philippine Society of Endocrinology and Metabolism met in an emergency meeting this 17th of January 2001 and regretfully announces the cancellation of the forthcoming 2001 PSEM Annual Convention scheduled January 21 to 23, 2001 at the EDSA Shangri-la Hotel.

This decision was made in consideration of the ongoing national crisis and in the interest of the safety of our delegates, speakers and participants.

The Board would like to extend its appreciation for the effort, support and commitment of everyone concerned.

Announcement for the new date and venue of the 2001 PSEM Annual Convention shall be made at a later time.

Cynthia Halili-Manabat, MD
President

Elizabeth Paz-Pacheco, MD
Vice-President

Roberto C. Mirasol, MD
Secretary

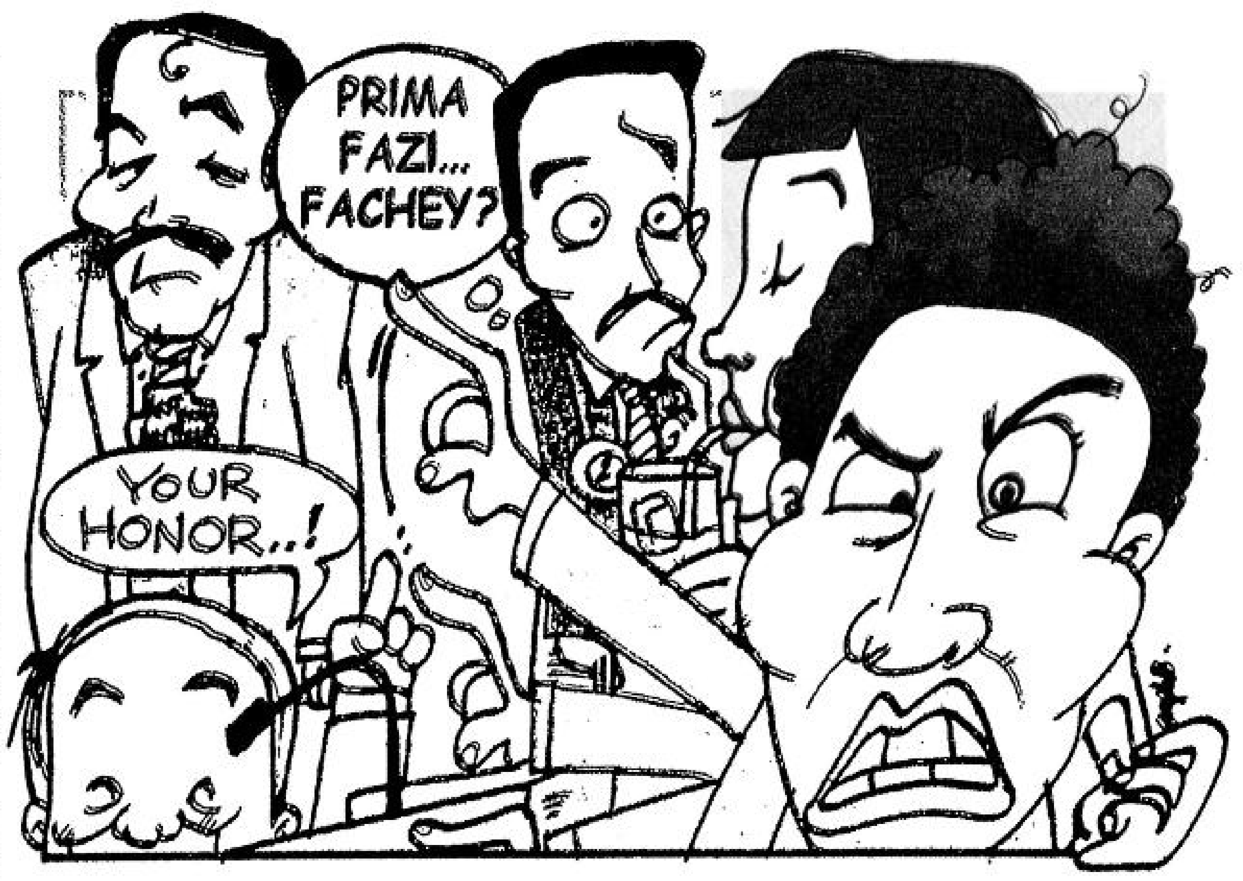
Rosa Allyn Sy, MD
Treasurer

Cynthia Chua-Ho, MD
Immediate Past President

Laura T. Acampado, MD
Ruby T. Go, MDm
Joselynna Anel-Quimpo, MD
Josephine Carlos-Raboca, MD
Directors

That was entertainment

By Cora Lucas


PRIMA FAZI... FACHEY?
YOUR HONOR..!

IT WAS about as good as entertainment could get.

Suddenly, just watching snippets of the impeachment trial got you spouting legal jargon and junking the made-for-TV courtroom dramas for the real thing. Not that you had a choice. Anywhere you aim your remote, the same proceedings unfolded.

The Estrada impeachment trial could leave you bored and wanting, but it could also get your pulse racing. Just consider the holiday season cliffhanger, when a surprise witness blew the cover on mystery man Jose Velarde.

Senator-judge Miriam Defensor-Santiago got your adrenaline pumping when she unleashed a mouthful against three spectators in the Senate gallery who supposedly looked at her "provocatively." And didn't the defense take everyone on a thrill ride when it urged a bank employee to identify a client in question from the packed gallery?

There was nothing like having a ringside view of the proceedings. But watching the show on the small screen was not such a bad state to be in.

In the Senate gallery, the rules could be murky. Of course you got to join the esteemed company of legal luminaries and got to look at them from different angles at close range. You also got to make a cameo appearance, a "walk-on" with no lines.

But watching the show on the small screen in your living room, you could crack up, snicker, shriek, applaud, whistle, stretch, leap, slam-dunk cornicks or wear nothing but a bored expression. And the cameras would certainly not be aimed at you.

Santiago said observing decorum would keep the senator-judges from playing to the gallery or to the cameras. But who was to stop the judges with audience-grabbing skills?

Working the crowd

Here's a sample of how to work a crowd: "*Mukhang masyadong matagal ang* camera *sa mukha ko.* More than two minutes *na,* in aid of reelection."

That was Senator-judge Juan Flavier, on exceeding the two-minute rule on questioning witnesses. When reminded that his time was up, he quipped, "Oh, as short as I am."

Lines like this woke you up from the stupor the trial put you in. They helped you bear long hours of watching the wheels of justice grinding exceedingly slow.

When you couldn't get a piece of the action live, you were thankful for the anchors and guest lawyers in the TV studio who expounded both on the petty and the profound. They annotated the proceedings so well you were ready for a quiz by the end of the show.

Not suited for kids

The trial contained scenes and dialogues not suited for young audiences. It displayed all the elements of prime-time drama, complete with stomach-turning dialogues, including cuss words uttered by the star witness. "*Bastos itong hayop na ito.*" "*Sugapa sa pera 'yang p__ inang 'yan.*"

The trial spewed one stunning revelation after another and witnesses were subjected to humiliation. Senator-judge Ramon Revilla, for example, implied that a government official had provided a regular meal ticket to a then-unemployed journalist.

The trial left you in a thinking mood the whole day. You even got to boost your vocabulary, although the legal jargon could be so trying at times you wished there were subtitles to get you through. Like, what on earth is *factum provandum*? That's more difficult to decipher than "colloquy."

Santiago, who dropped the word in one of her speeches, defined it as merely a dialogue, from the Latin colloquium, a more commonly used term. That certainly rolls off the tongue more easily than logorrhea or what the senator defined as incoherent speech, or glossolalia which she described as talking in different tongues.

On one occasion, she delivered a pointed discourse on the equivocal nature of the Filipino language, pointing out that "*Bahala na*" has different shades of meaning. When the President dropped the phrase, he could actually mean "I will," "I will not" or "I will think it over," she said.

Mangled pronunciation

Unfortunately in the courtroom, the rules on pronunciation, do not always work. Even the counsels with crisp accents pronounced al·leg·ed·ly as al·legd·ly, in·EV·i·ta·ble as in·ev·I·ta·ble and query with a short "e." And nobody in the courtroom pronounced prima facie correctly.

If you have the attention span of an average five-year-old, chances are some of these nuggets escaped you. You'd brush off difficult-to-digest technical terms like the stock market's "day trade" or "wash sale" in favor of character analysis. You'd find it more interesting to observe counsels and members of the court exchanging dagger looks and trading verbal barbs while you were also noting how quick and high they could arch their eyebrows.

Just when you thought the trial lacked the impassioned speeches of fictional courtroom dramas, you got a round of outbursts from the senator-judges. Like a wave slowly building up, Senators Santiago, Franklin Drilon and Nikki Coseteng went on a verbal attack. Santiago withdrew her motion for reconsideration of the ban of the three gallery spectators. Drilon accused defense lawyers of confounding the court with their "dirty tricks." Coseteng charged that a prosecution counsel was accusing her of lying.

Calling movie producers

Another day, another round of litigation.

You will surely miss what has become your small-screen staple for the last month and a half. You will miss the verbal battle as well as the light moments, the fancy footwork and unique courtroom theatrics that make courtroom dramas on TV pale in comparison.

Anyway you look at it, you look at it anyway.

The impeachment trial could certainly make a pile if an astute movie producer would decide to cash in on it. The trial, after all, sent the ratings of afternoon TV zooming up and became a welcome escape from programming mediocrity.

A movie based on the trial would be a safe bet for best picture nominations at least, being both serious and entertaining, with strong characterizations and plenty of action, passion and emotion.

'Kakampi' winning more and more kid followers

PRESIDENTIAL Adviser for Children's Affairs Jamby Madrigal (left) records with Imelda Papin.

ONLY three seasons old, the television program "Kakampi" has been winning warm response, both for the show as well as for the hosts, Jamby Santos Madrigal, Joyce and Jolleen Celestino and Jackie Mariquis.

Jamby, presidential adviser for children's affairs, said she is elated that private entities have been supporting the show through sponsorship, but stressed there is still much to be done.

She is both shocked and flattered that people recognize her instantly in her provincial visits as children's affairs advocate. In Tarlac, the crowd swelled to more than 3,000, higher than what Jamby and staff expected.

The big turnout was repeated in Ilocos, Pangasinan, Iloilo and other provinces they visited to spread the gospel of nutrition, knowledge, peace, health and other values. Especially touching was a barrio resident's comment that children should avoid junk food because "Kakamping" Jamby said so in her show.

"Putting into three seasons of Kakampi what I said in the barangays is a lot faster," says Jamby who is strict about the language used in the show. It's either straight Tagalog or straight English.

"I want to educate kids, elevate their level of knowledge," she explains.

She has recorded a song with fellow Bicolana Imelda Papin. A remake of Willy Garte's "Ikaw Lamang," with lyrics by Imelda, the song is a favorite of Kakamping Jamby followers.

Jamby gives away cassette copies of the song to remind children that her life is dedicated to them and to remind adults that children are our greatest treasure.

Sade album premieres in Internet

WHATEVER happened to Sade, the sultry voice behind the hit "Smooth Operator"?

After nearly eight years, Sade is back with a new studio album, "Lovers Rock," and she's also in cyberspace.

The album recently premiered on the Internet exclusively in Apple's Quicktime streaming media format.

The online Sade Listening Party is now accessible via www.sadeusa.com, www.vibe.com, and wwwapple.com/quicktime. The album includes Sade's current single, "By Your Side."

"Sade is very excited about the online premiere of 'Lovers Rock' as it affords a great opportunity to reach out to her new and existing fans via this exciting medium," said Epic Records Group president Polly Anthony. "Apple's QuickTime streaming technology, coupled with the reach and presence of VIBE, will make this an event to remember."

"Apple's QuickTime is simply the world's best format for streaming high quality audio and video over the Internet," said Philip Schiller, Apple's vice president of Worldwide Product marketing. "We're ecstatic QuickTime was chosen as the format to premiere Sade's new album before it hits the stores."

"Lovers Rock" is an 11-track album written, arranged and co-produced by Sade with Mike Pela, with whom Sade has worked on her previous albums.

Five of Sade's prior albums placed in the top five on Billboard's pop and R&B charts, and her albums have sold more than 25 million copies in the US and more than 50 million worldwide.

To access the premier of "Lovers Rock" in its entirety at the online Sade Listening Party, Internet users simply need to download the QuickTime player, which is available to Macintosh and Windows users for free at www.apple.com/quicktime.

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2	DOLBY SURROUND	THE 6TH DAY
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	RED PLANET
4	DOLBY SURROUND	REMEMBER THE TITANS
5	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	HIGHLANDER
6	DOLBY SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
7	DOLBY SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN
8	DOLBY SURROUND	SUPER IDOL

SM CENTERPOINT 7149522 • 7161416

1	DOLBY SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
2	DOLBY SURROUND	LEGEND OF BAGGER VANCE
3	DTS	RED PLANET
4	DOLBY SURROUND	LITTLE NICKY
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	HIGHLANDER
6	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	REMEMBER THE TITANS
7	DOLBY SURROUND	MEET THE PARENTS
8	DOLBY SURROUND	THE 6TH DAY
9	DOLBY SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN
10	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SUPER IDOL

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 9350749

1	DOLBY SURROUND	SUPER IDOL
2	DOLBY SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN
3	DOLBY SURROUND	PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP
4	DOLBY DIGITAL	RED PLANET
5	DOLBY SURROUND	MEET THE PARENTS
6	DOLBY SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
7	DOLBY DIGITAL	LITTLE NICKY
8	DOLBY SURROUND	HIGHLANDER
9	DOLBY SURROUND	THE 6TH DAY
10	DOLBY SURROUND	LEGEND OF BAGGER VANCE
11	DOLBY SURROUND	SPIRIT WARRIORS
12	DOLBY SURROUND	REMEMBER THE TITANS

SM CITY MANILA 5239240

1	DOLBY DIGITAL	RED PLANET
2	DOLBY DIGITAL	HIGHLANDER
3	DOLBY SURROUND	MIRACLE FIGHTER
4	DOLBY SURROUND	LITTLE NICKY
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	MEET THE PARENTS
6	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	THE 6TH DAY
7	DOLBY SURROUND	REMEMBER THE TITANS
8	DOLBY SURROUND	LEGEND OF BAGGER VANCE
9	DOLBY SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
10	DOLBY SURROUND	SPIRIT WARRIORS
11	DOLBY SURROUND	SUPER IDOL
12	DOLBY SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN

GUADALUPE COMM'L CTR 8820950

1	ULTRA SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	HIGHLANDER
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SUPER IDOL

SM MEGAMALL 6331901 • 6329401

1	DOLBY DIGITAL	PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
2	DOLBY SURROUND	MEET THE PARENTS
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	LITTLE NICKY
4	DTS	HIGHLANDER
5	DOLBY SURROUND	REMEMBER THE TITANS
6	DOLBY SURROUND	PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP
7	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP
8	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SUPER IDOL
9	DOLBY SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN
10	DOLBY SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	THE 6TH DAY
12	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	LEGEND OF BAGGER VANCE

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9295452

1	DOLBY SURROUND	SUPER IDOL
2	DOLBY SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	KANGKONG
4	DOLBY SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
5	DOLBY SURROUND	REMEMBER THE TITANS
6	DOLBY SURROUND	LITTLE NICKY
7	DTS	THE RED PLANET
8	DOLBY DIGITAL	HIGHLANDER
9	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	LEGEND OF BAGGER VANCE
10	DOLBY SURROUND	PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	MEET THE PARENTS
12	DOLBY SURROUND	THE 6TH DAY

SM SOUTHMALL 8066888 • 8066782

1	ULTRA SURROUND	REMEMBER THE TITANS
2	ULTRA SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN
3	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	THE RED PLANET
4	ULTRA SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
5	ULTRA SURROUND	MEET THE PARENTS
6	ULTRA SURROUND	LEGEND OF BAGGER VANCE
7	ULTRA SURROUND	LITTLE NICKY
8	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	HIGHLANDER
9	ULTRA SURROUND	THE 6TH DAY
10	ULTRA SURROUND	SUPER IDOL

TUTUBAN CENTER 2514302

1	ULTRA SURROUND	THE RED PLANET
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	LITTLE NICKY
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	HIGHLANDER
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA

SM CEBU 2313876

1	DOLBY SURROUND	MARKOVA
2	ULTRA SURROUND	HIGHLANDER
3	ULTRA SURROUND	MEET THE PARENTS
4	ULTRA SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
5	ULTRA SURROUND	CROCODILE
6	ULTRA SURROUND	EMPERORS NEW GROOVE
7	DOLBY SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN

SM ILOILO 3209422

1	ULTRA SURROUND	THE 6TH DAY
2	ULTRA SURROUND	MEET THE PARENTS
3	ULTRA SURROUND	DEATH ROW
4	ULTRA SURROUND	CRACKER JACK
5	ULTRA SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN
6	ULTRA SURROUND	EMPERORS NEW GROOVE
7	ULTRA SURROUND	HIGHLANDER
8	ULTRA SURROUND	LOST SOULS

SM PAMPANGA 7128015

1	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	THE RED PLANET
2	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	HIGHLANDER
3	DOLBY SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	MEET THE PARENTS
5	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	THE 6TH DAY
6	DOLBY SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA

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2	TANGING YAMAN
3	BALAHIBONG PUSA
4	THE 6TH DAY

GLORIETTA 4 All Digital Sound

1	HIGHLANDER in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2	REMEMBER THE TITANS in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	THE RED PLANET THX in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA (Phil. Premiere) Art Film in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	EMPERORS NEW GROOVE in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6	LITTLE NICKY in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7	MEET THE PARENTS in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GREENBELT

1	LITTLE NICKY in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2	THE RED PLANET in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3	MEET THE PARENTS in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
4	SOON TO OPEN Onstage

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1	THE RED PLANET THX in DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2	LITTLE NICKY in DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	REMEMBER THE TITANS in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	HIGHLANDER in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	BALAHIBONG PUSA in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1	(DDS)	RED PLANET
2	(SDDS)	LITTLE NICKY
3	(DTS)	MEET THE PARENTS
4	GOLD (DTS)	RED PLANET
5	GOLD (DOLBY)	HIGHLANDER
6	GOLD (SDDS)	TANGING YAMAN
7	GOLD (DOLBY)	REMEMBER THE TITANS
8	[illegible]	THE 6TH DAY
9	[illegible]	LEGEND OF BAGGER VANCE
10	[illegible]	BALAHIBONG PUSA

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1		SUPER IDOL
2		BALAHIBONG PUSA
3	(DTS)	KANGKONG
4		RESERVE
5		
6	(DTS)	

Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMAX 1-2 & 3
(Kalaw) tel 536.4315

1	(DOLBY)	RED PLANET
2	(DTS)	SUPER IDOL
3		LITTLE NICKY

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	BALAHIBONG PUSA
2	SUPER IDOL
3	DUWAG LANG ANG SUMUSUKO

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1		BALAHIBONG PUSA
2		DUWAG LANG ANG SUMUSUKO
3		KANGKONG
4	(DOLBY DIGITAL)	RED PLANET
5		PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP

Metropolis
(Alabang) tel 543.4001

1	SUPER IDOL
2	DUWAG LANG ANG SUMUSUKO
3	BALAHIBONG PUSA
4	HIGHLANDER
5	LITTLE NICKY
6	RED PLANET
7	KANGKONG
8	THE 6TH DAY

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Center Plaza Cinema
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1	THE 6TH DAY
2	DEATH ROW

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9515

1	KANGKONG
2	DUWAG LANG ANG SUMUSUKO
3	SUPER IDOL

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	BALAHIBONG PUSA
A	SUPER IDOL

JC Cinema
(Parañaque) tel 825.8626

1	BALAHIBONG PUSA
3	SUPER IDOL

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8568

1	(DOLBY)	BALAHIBONG PUSA
2		KANGKONG
3		TANGING YAMAN
4		HIGHLANDER
5		MEET THE PARENTS
6		DUWAG LANG ANG SUMUSUKO
7	(DTS)	RED PLANET
8	(SDDS)	REMEMBER THE TITANS
9	(DOLBY)	LITTLE NICKY

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	BALAHIBONG PUSA
3	KANGKONG
4	DUWAG LANG ANG SUMUSUKO
5	
6	

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1		BALAHIBONG PUSA
2		BALAHIBONG PUSA
3		SUPER IDOL
4	(SDDS)	DUWAG LANG ANG SUMUSUKO
5		LITTLE NICKY
6	(DOLBY)	HIGHLANDER
7	(DTS)	RED PLANET
8		KANGKONG
9		REMEMBER THE TITANS

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1	(DTS)	RED PLANET
2		BALAHIBONG PUSA
3		TANGING YAMAN
4		DUWAG LANG ANG SUMUSUKO
5	(SDDS)	REMEMBER THE TITANS
6		SUPERIDOL
7	(DOLBY)	HIGHLANDER
8		KANGKONG

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1		KANGKONG
2		THE 6TH DAY
3	(DTS)	RED PLANET
4		BALAHIBONG PUSA
5	(SDDS)	REMEMBER THE TITANS
6	(DOLBY)	DUWAG LANG ANG SUMUSUKO
7	(DOLBY)	HIGHLANDER

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	BALAHIBONG PUSA

Sampaquita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	BALAHIBONG PUSA

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson Lords Jennet	SUPER IDOL NAKED INSTINCT

THE MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	RED PLANET
2	SUPER IDOL
3	BALAHIBONG PUSA
4	LITTLE NICKY

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

1	
3	SUPER IDOL

Super Cinerama
(Manila) tel 733.4226 or 733.4238

1	RED PLANET
2	BALAHIBONG PUSA
3	LITTLE NICKY
4	HIGHLANDER
5	KANGKONG

Divisoria Mall
(Manila) tel 244.4560 or 244.4619

1	BALAHIBONG PUSA
2	KANGKONG
3	SUPER IDOL
4	RED PLANET
5	DUWAG LANG ANG SUMUSUKO
6	HIGHLANDER

Baclaran LRT Cinema
tel 512.0115 or 512.0116

1	BALAHIBONG PUSA
2	DUWAG LANG ANG SUMUSUKO
3	SUPER IDOL

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1		BALAHIBONG PUSA
2		KANGKONG
3	(DTS)	RED PLANET

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1		BALAHIBONG PUSA
2	(DTS)	THE 6TH DAY
3	(DOLBY)	RED PLANET
4		PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1	(SDDS)	RED PLANET
2		SUPER IDOL
3		DUWAG LANG ANG SUMUSUKO
4	(DTS)	BALAHIBONG PUSA

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1	(DOLBY)	PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP
2		BALAHIBONG PUSA
3	(DTS)	RED PLANET
4		LOST SOULS
5		KANGKONG

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	BALAHIBONG PUSA
2	RED PLANET
3	PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP

Olivarez Los Baños
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2	RED PLANET
3	ROAD TRIP

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	SUGO NG TONDO
2	THE 6TH DAY
3	KANGKONG

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP
2	RED PLANET
3	SUPER IDOL

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	RED PLANET
2	BALAHIBONG PUSA
3	SUPER IDOL
4	DUWAG LANG ANG SUMUSUKO

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 243.2783

1	(DTS)	BALAHIBONG PUSA
2	(DTS)	SUPER IDOL

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	BALAHIBONG PUSA

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	SUPER IDOL
2	BALAHIBONG PUSA
3	KANGKONG

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	RED PLANET
2	SUGATANG PUSO
3	UNBREAKABLE
4	THE 6TH DAY

Berma
tel 879.2168

1	CLOSED
2	CLOSED

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	SUPER IDOL
2	DUWAG LANG ANG SUMUSUKO
3	BALAHIBONG PUSA
4	RED PLANET

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1	(DOLBY EX)	MEET THE PARENTS
2		TANGING YAMAN
3		BALAHIBONG PUSA
4	(DTS EX)	PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP

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a special presentation

Filmfest pays tribute to next generation of movie makers

IN ITS 8th edition, the "Pelikula at Lipunan" film festival salutes the country's next generation of filmmakers.

Vibrant new works by young directors are welcome contributions to the growing alternative film community that was started by independent artists like Nick Deocampo and Raymond Red.

Highlighting the festival is the birth of the Ilonggo cinema with the premier screening of the country's first movies made in the Hiligaynon language. Three Ilonggo artists with two women directors will open this year's festival, which will also be hosted for the first time by Iloilo City on Feb. 7-10 at SM Cinema.

Alan Cabalfin's "Dihon" (Form) leads the festival works, being the country's entry to the first-ever Kodak Worldwide Student Film Festival in Sydney, Australia. It was also recently bought for screening on Singapore television.

The other Ilonggo films are Teresa Tejero's "Hulot" (Room) and Eileen Ocampo's "Batchoyan sa Banwa" (Batchoyan in Town), all products of a Mowelfund workshop sponsored by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, Kodak and Philippine Airlines.

From Iloilo, Pelikula at Lipunan moves to SM Cinema in Cebu City on Feb. 16 and 17 for a screening of classic and new films.

The festival ends in Manila on Feb. 21-27 and will be held for the first time in SM City Manila.

Featured are the daring new works in the Mowelfund documentary workshop. Three gay and lesbian films will showcase the audacious talents of emerging directors Paolo Villaluna ("Palugid"), Gladys Hernando ("Whoman") and Tammy Tam ("T").

These will have their world premiere in the world's mecca of short films, in Oberhausen, Germany, in May.

Also showcased in Pelikula at Lipunan are works made in digital video and new short films, including those made by students in the University of the Philippines.

Also included are classic Tagalog movies like the newly restored 16mm prints of "Jack 'N' Jill," featuring Dolphy's first gay starring role with Lolita Rodriguez playing a male role; "Dalagang Ilokana," starring a young Gloria Romero; "Maalaala Mo Kaya" starring Carmen Rosales and Rogelio de la Rosa; and "MN" starring Rosales, Alicia Vergel, Oscar Moreno and Cesar Ramirez.

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1. THE RED PLANET
2. THE 6TH DAY
3. BALAHIBONG PUSA
4. REMEMBER THE TITANS
5. HIGHLANDER
6. LITTLE NICKY
7. MEET THE PARENTS

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1. THE RED PLANET
2. REMEMBER THE TITANS
3. SUPER IDOL
4. LITTLE NICKY
5. HIGHLANDER
6. BALAHIBONG PUSA

BACOLOD
(034)441-0453

1. MEET THE PARENTS
2. TANGING YAMAN
3. EMPERORS NEW GROOVE
4. CROCODILES
5. GATAS
6. EX-CON

DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	TANGING YAMAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	BALAHIBONG PUSA
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	HIGHLANDER
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	RED PLANET
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	THE 6TH DAY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	LITTLE NICKY
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	RED PLANET
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	KANGKONG
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	BALAHIBONG PUSA
MIRAMAR	KATAYAN / BODY TO BODY
ODEON	BALAHIBONG PUSA
ODEON-2	RED PLANET
ROBEN	KANGKONG
TANDEM-1	SPIRIT WARRIORS
TANDEM-2	NAGHUHUMIYAW
TIMES	WHAT LIES BENEATH / ANACONDA 2000
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SA IYO ANG SARAP SA IYO ANG LIGAYA
ACT-2	ARAYY
ACT-3	HIRAM NA KATAWAN
ACT-4	BIRADOR
CORONET-2	DUWAG LANG ANG SUMUSUKO
QUEZON-1	KANGKONG
REMAR	BALAHIBONG PUSA
REMAR-2	KANGKONG
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	MARKOVA: COMFORT GAY
OCEAN CINEMA-A	LARO SA BAGA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	GUEVARRA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	EMPERORS NEW GROOVE
CINEMA-2	THE 6TH DAY
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-54091 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	KANGKONG
CINEMA-2	EMPERORS NEW GROOVE
CINEMA-3	DEATH ROW
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THE 6TH DAY
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	THE 6TH DAY
CINEMA-6	BALAHIBONG PUSA
CINEMA-7	SPIRIT WARRIORS
CINEMA-8	TANGING YAMAN
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	MEET THE PARENTS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THE 6TH DAY
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP
CINEMA-12	BALAHIBONG PUSA
CINEMA-14	GATAS
CINEMA-15	TANGING YAMAN
LORES	
CINEMA-2	TANGING YAMAN
CINEMA-3	THE 6TH DAY
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	EMPERORS NEW GROOVE
CINEMA-2	RED PLANET
CINEMA-3	HIGHLANDER
CINEMA-4	LITTLE NICKY
CINEMA-5	MEET THE PARENTS
CINEMA-6	REMEMBER THE TITANS

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Adventure- Drama-Suspense
Starring:
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Carrie Anne Moss
Tom Sizemore

January 20 - Sat / 21 - Sunday

1:50 PM - Red Planet
4:10 PM - Red Planet
6:30 PM - Red Planet
8:50 PM - Red Planet
11:10 PM - Red Planet

Get a copy of the 3rd issue of Pelikula: A Journal of Philippine Cinema and Learn more about Comedy King DOLPHY and other Filipino artists, Movie fans & Idols.

Pelikula is one of the beneficiary projects of the LRP Foundation, published jointly with the U-P College of Mass Communication.

Hear the Difference, Feel the Excitement

Dina doesn't know how to handle compliments; Miriam talks too much

DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

DINA Bonnevie, Miriam Quiambao and I had fun exchanging views about being TV hosts.

During commercial breaks on "D-Day," Dina told me that one of the rare times she becomes speechless is when someone praises her to high heavens.

"I feel awkward when people keep saying nice things about me," Dina said. "I don't know how to handle compliments well. I feel like melting. I'd rather read about it than hear it said to my face."

Miriam revealed that one thing she wants to change in herself is her tendency to monopolize a conversation.

"Sometimes I catch myself talking too much because I get so engrossed in the topic," Miriam said. "I get carried away and I find it hard to stop talking.

"When I don't like the company I'm with, I talk less. I don't want to pretend I'm enjoying myself when I'm not."

It was my first time to meet Miriam and we hit it off well at once. She's so down to earth and simple. Other women who are not even beauty queen material act like prima donnas just because they happen to be well-known. What makes Miriam stand out is that she does not seem to be aware of how beautiful she really is.

She revealed that her boyfriend of five years is saving up for their marriage already. "I'm so happy with him," she said. "That's why even when there are many goodlooking men in show biz I'm not even tempted to stray."

Ai-Ai de las Alas was also around and she made us all laugh like crazy.

"I don't know why they keep saying I'm a lesbian," Ai-Ai said. "I had to buy (a) heart-shaped diamond ring that I always wear to show that I'm a real woman."

She's neck-deep in preparation for her Valentine show, "Unimpeachable Love," at the Music Museum, which no doubt is going to be a riot.

Ai-Ai said, "'*Pag* one size fits all *na ang Papa mo, 'yun bang* open to all girls *siya, e dapat mo nang* i-impeach *sa buhay mo*."

Just asking

- Could it be true that **Dingdong Dantes** is courting a pretty *colegiala* from Ateneo? My source said the girl's name starts with a T but her name is not **Toni**, as in **Antoinette Taus**. Will the Atenista be Dingdong's replacement for Toni who is migrating to the United States?
- Talk is going around that **Bojo Molina** will be nominated for an acting award for his role in the movie with **Pops Fernandez**, "Gusto Ko Nang Lumigaya." Will it materialize? It's about time for Bojo to really shine.
- Wonder if **Niño Muhlach** will stop womanizing now that he has settled down. I had the chance to hang out with **Onin** and his wife **Edith**. I must say that she has a calming effect on him. Onin said, "I'm tired of playing the field. Behave *na ako talaga* 'cause I'm so excited about my baby-to-be. I like to call Edith 'Ms Kowloon' because her cheeks are like *siopao*."
- A **Martin Nievera** diehard e-mailed me asking if Martin's girlfriend **Katrina Ojeda** will watch his February birthday concert at the Ultra. Martin's fans said that since the romance with Katrina is now out in the open, there's nothing wrong in her being around to give Martin moral support on his big day.
- A friend told me he spotted Pops and **Troy Montero** at the Power Plant Mall in Rockwell Center, Makati. It was just the two of them. Pops and Troy usually go out in a big group. Now that the Pops-Martin marriage has been annulled, I guess Pops and Troy can be themselves even in public. When will we find out the real score?
- As soon as **Sharon Cuneta** slims down, she'll start shooting a movie with **Robin Padilla**. Will it surpass their record-breaking movie "Maging Sino Ka Man?" Not a remote possibility.
- Will **Princess Punzalan** go through her Christian wedding next month at the PICC? Her fans will surely miss her when she migrates to New York to be a full-time wife to her pastor husband.

For feedback e-mail watering whole2000@yahoo.com.

RYAN IN PROTEST ON WHEELS

GMA-7 TV host and Penshoppe model Ryan Agoncillo (left) led a group of bikers who are seeking to legalize the use of motorcycles on highways like the South Luzon Expressway and the North Luzon Tollway. The bikers converged at the Rockwell Center on Tuesday and rode all the way to Calamba, Laguna. On Jan. 27 and 28, Ryan will again lead the riders all the way up to Baguio.

Five Days of Good Fortune reels off at Power Plant

THE POWER Plant at Rockwell Center in Makati City celebrates the Year of the Snake with Five Days to Good Fortune from Jan. 20 to 24.

During the five days, Chinese New Year gifts and goodies are available at the Chinese Village in the north court of the Power Plant. With at least P800 worth of receipts from one or more Power Plant stores, shoppers can pick a lucky charm from the Tree of Prosperity.

The Chinese House of Good Fortune opens its doors to those who wish to know their fortune in the Year of the Snake. Enter the house to know your future from 4-8 p.m. on these dates.

As a bonus, drop by at Cinnabon for a bun or two on Jan. 20 at 4 p.m. and catch award-winning pro-golfer Dorothy Delasin. On Jan. 21 starting at noon, watch the traditional lion dance as it spreads magic and good luck throughout the mall.

At Rustan's Fresh, the latest innovation in supermarket shopping, a minimum purchase entitles the buyer to packs of sweet tangerines.

The Power Plant at Rockwell Center is open from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on weekdays and from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on weekends starting Fridays.

Teeners needed for boy band

STAGES Production Specialists Inc., the sister company of Trumpets, the theater group behind acclaimed hit productions "Joseph The Dreamer," "The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe," and "Little Mermaid," is looking for teenage boys between 15 and 20 years old who can join its boy group.

Interested parties must bring their resumés, a minus-one of their audition piece (any pop or R&B song) and a 3R color photo.

Audition will be held today, Jan. 20, from 2 to 5 p.m., at Stageworx on the 5th level of Shangrila-La Plaza Mall.

For inquiries, call Perky at 818-1111 loc. 504.

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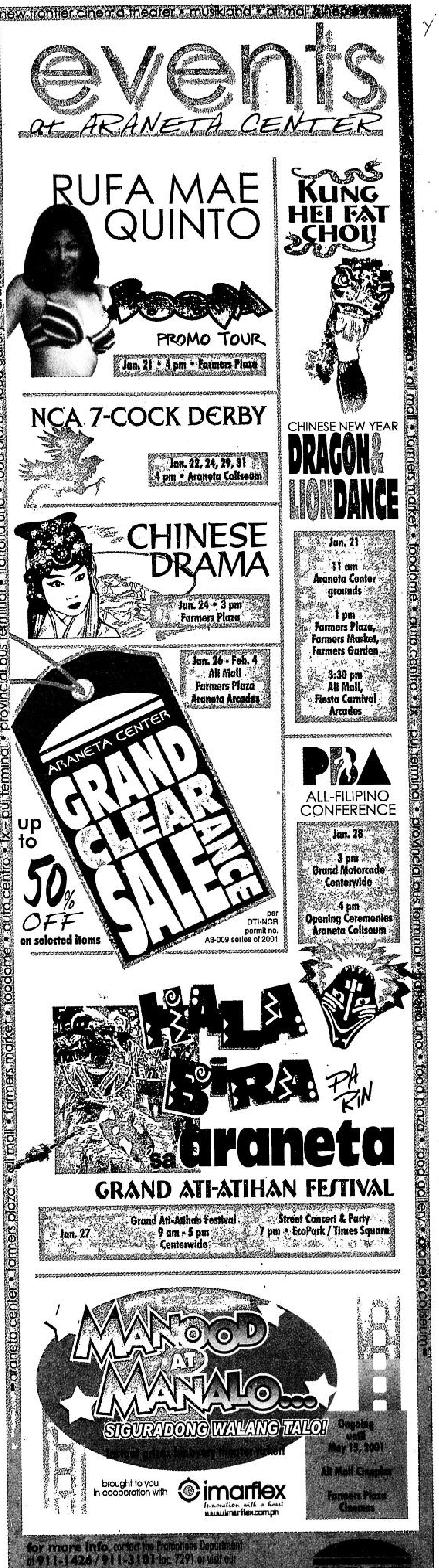
new frontier cinema theater • musikland • ali mall
fiesta carnival • ticketnet • araneta coliseum • food gallery • food plaza • trafalgar uno • provincial bus terminal • puj terminal • fx • auto centro • foodome • farmers market • farmers plaza • ali mall • araneta center
events
at ARANETA CENTER
RUFA MAE QUINTO
PROMO TOUR
Jan. 21 • 4 pm • Farmers Plaza
NCA 7-COCK DERBY
Jan. 22, 24, 29, 31
4 pm • Araneta Coliseum
CHINESE DRAMA
Jan. 24 • 3 pm
Farmers Plaza
Jan. 26 - Feb. 4
Ali Mall
Farmers Plaza
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KUNG HEI FAT CHOI!
CHINESE NEW YEAR
DRAGON & LION DANCE
Jan. 21
11 am
Araneta Center grounds
1 pm
Farmers Plaza, Farmers Market, Farmers Garden
3:30 pm
Ali Mall, Fiesta Carnival Arcades
PBA
ALL-FILIPINO CONFERENCE
Jan. 28
3 pm
Grand Motorcade Centerwide
4 pm
Opening Ceremonies Araneta Coliseum
HALA BIRA PA RIN sa araneta
GRAND ATI-ATIHAN FESTIVAL
Jan. 27
Grand Ati-Atihan Festival
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Centerwide
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7 pm • EcoPark / Times Square
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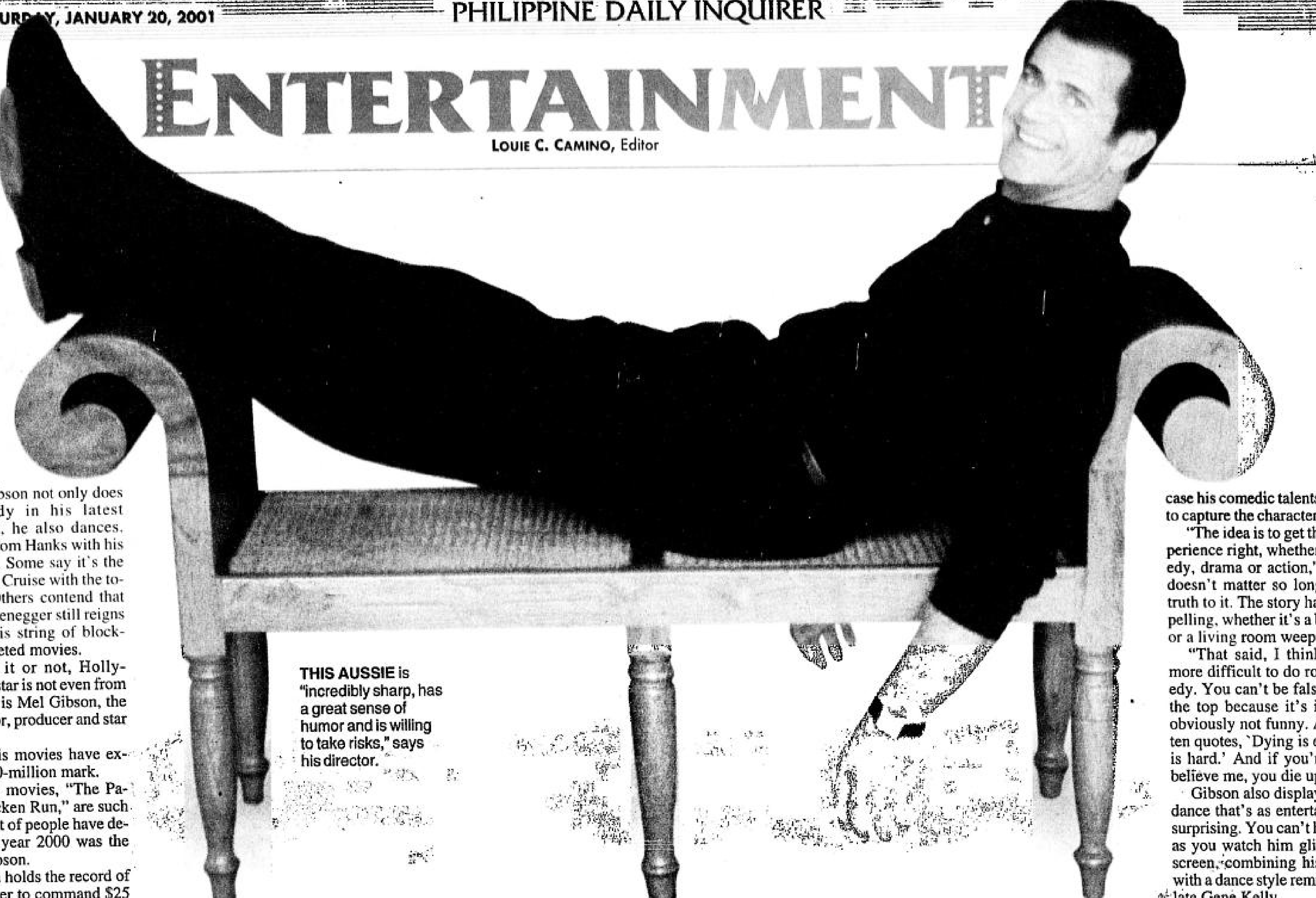
ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor



THIS AUSSIE is "incredibly sharp, has a great sense of humor and is willing to take risks," says his director.

Mel Gibson not sitting on his $100-M laurels

MEL Gibson not only does comedy in his latest movie, he also dances. People say it's Tom Hanks with his multiple Oscars. Some say it's the other Tom, Tom Cruise with the to-die-for looks. Others contend that Arnold Schwarzenegger still reigns supreme with his string of blockbuster big-budgeted movies.

But believe it or not, Hollywood's biggest star is not even from Hollywood. He is Mel Gibson, the enduring director, producer and star from Australia.

So far, all his movies have exceeded the $100-million mark.

His last two movies, "The Patriot" and "Chicken Run," are such big hits that a lot of people have declared that the year 2000 was the year of Mel Gibson.

And, Gibson holds the record of having the power to command $25 million per movie—definitely more than Hanks, Cruise and Schwarzenegger earn per movie.

Gibson is not only known for being the highest paid actor in Hollywood. He is also an accomplished thespian.

In the course of his 23-year career, he has tackled movie roles ranging from the early romantic drama "Forever Young" to the smash hit "Lethal Weapon" and "Mad Max" series to the Western comedy "Maverick" and the psychological thriller "Conspiracy Theory" to the historical adventure "Braveheart" for which he won the Oscar for best picture and best director.

Now, Gibson stars in "What Women Want," a romantic comedy that pairs him with another Academy Award winner, Helen Hunt ("As Good as It Gets").

"What Women Want" is a certified hit in the United States, where it was No. 1 for a number of weeks during the yearend despite stiff holiday competition.

"What Women Want" is the story of Nick Marshall, a hotshot advertising executive who suddenly discovers he can hear the innermost thoughts of every woman he meets.

Gibson said the movie reminds him of the romantic comedies of the 1930s and the 1940s. "It's like the classic movies by directors Ernst Lubitsch, Frank Capra and Billy Wilder, filled with charm and witty dialogue in an updated way. It accentuates the difference between men and women, which is the essence of all great romantic comedies."

"What Women Want" director Nancy Meyer said: "Mel pokes fun at his manly, testosterone-driven image. He's an incredibly confident and relaxed actor, open to suggestion and direction, and the hardest working actor I have ever seen. Mel is full of surprises."

But before Gibson could showcase his comedic talents, he first had to capture the character's humanity.

"The idea is to get the human experience right, whether it's in comedy, drama or action," he said. "It doesn't matter so long as there is truth to it. The story has to be compelling, whether it's a battle picture or a living room weeper.

"That said, I think it is much more difficult to do romantic comedy. You can't be false or too over the top because it's immediately, obviously not funny. As Nancy often quotes, 'Dying is easy, comedy is hard.' And if you're not funny, believe me, you die up there."

Gibson also displays a talent for dance that's as entertaining as it is surprising. You can't help but smile as you watch him glide across the screen, combining his own moves with a dance style reminiscent of the late Gene Kelly.

"All you have to be is smart and willing in a romantic comedy, and Mel so completely embodies these qualities," Meyer said. "He is incredibly sharp, has a great sense of humor and is willing to take risks. You have to be ready to look silly, to go almost too far, but you also need the brains to keep it grounded in reality so that people care while they're laughing.

"Mel was great at all those things."

"What Women Want," distributed by Pioneer Films will open in theaters nationwide on Jan. 31. It will also be exclusively premiered by pop radio station Magic 89.9 dwTM.

Dulaang UP stages shocking play in Filipino, Spanish

AS its final offering on its silver anniversary, Dulaang UP is staging the Philippine premiere of "Divinas Palabras (Divine Works)" by Ramon Valle-Inclán.

Critics have hailed Del Valle-Inclán (1866-1936) as the most pioneering Spanish dramatist of the 20th century. And "Divinas Palabras" is perhaps his most famous play. It is representative of the dramatic genre he created and called *espresento*, which broadly means grotesque tragic-comedy.

Controversial and shocking even in Spain, the play depicts the physical and moral degradation of a country tyrannized by its government and the Catholic Church.

"Divinas Palabras" boasts a powerhouse cast: Ricci Chan from the blockbuster musical "Rent," veteran Eugene Domingo, Raye Baquirin and Crispin Pineda, and Andoy Ranay of "Mula sa Puso."

Directing "Divinas Palabras" is one of Dulaang UP's resident directors, Jose Estrella, who recently completed her MFA degree in directing at the Columbia University in New York.

In 1975-1976, the Dulaang Unibersidad ng Pilipinas, or Dulaang UP, was founded by Antonio O. Mabesa as the official production arm of the Department of Speech Communication and Theater Arts as well as of the University of the Philippines.

"Divinas Palabras" will be shown in both Spanish and Filipino versions on Feb. 8-26, 2001 at the Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero Theater, 2nd floor, Palma Hall, University of the Philippines.

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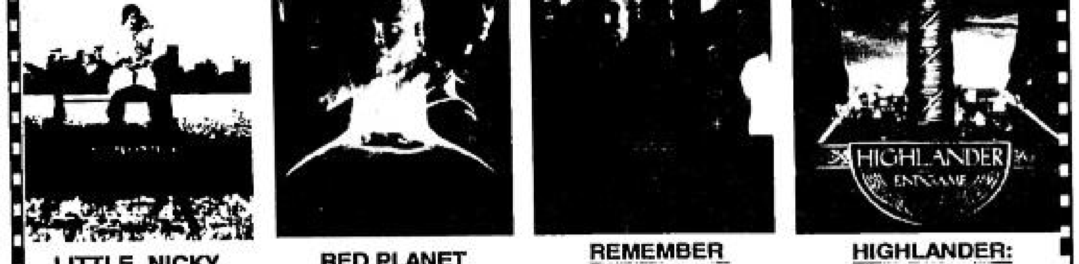

LITTLE NICKY (PG-13)	RED PLANET (PG-13)	REMEMBER THE TITANS (GP)	HIGHLANDER: ENDGAME (R)
11:00am/1:10pm 3:20/5:30/7:40/9:50 12:00 MN	1:20pm / 4:00 6:40 / 9:20 12:00 MN	11:20am / 2:00pm 4:30 / 7:00 / 9:30 12:00 MN	11:00am / 1:10pm 3:20/5:30/7:40/ 9:50 12:00 MN

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1 TANGING YAMAN 12:20, 2:10, 4:00, 5:50, 7:40, 9:30	2 RED PLANET 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00	3 HIGHLANDER 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00
4 LITTLE NICKY 1:40, 3:45, 5:50, 7:55, 10:00	5 MEET THE PARENTS 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00	6 REMEMBER THE TITANS 1:45, 4:15, 6:45, 9:20

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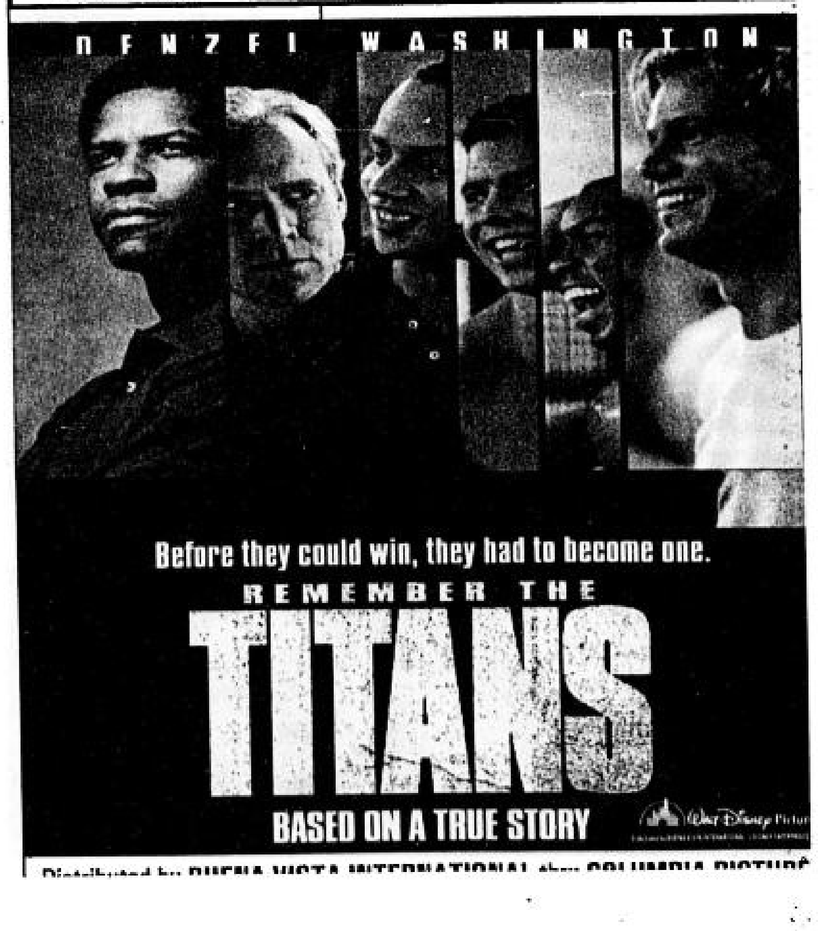

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BUSINESS

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ▣ CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

BSP notes continued outflow of dollars

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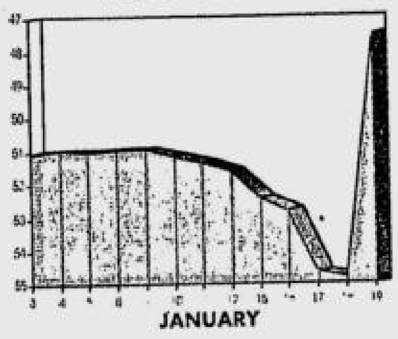
CURRENCIES



Peso-Dollar Rate

₱47.50 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Jan. 19, 2001

¥117.90 = $1

The US dollar was trading at 117.90 as of 5 p.m., Jan. 20, 2001

GOLD:$265.90/266.40

per ounce Hong Kong, Jan. 20, 2001

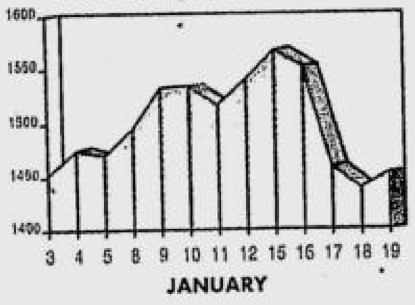
STOCK MARKET

Stocks up 1%

SHARES finished higher yesterday on a technical rebound after the aggressive sell-off of recent days amid political turmoil, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index ended up 14.72 points, or 1.02 percent, to 1,452.93, following a 1.4-percent loss Thursday. The index has shed 8.3 percent in the past three sessions.

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B2)

STOCKS/ B2

By CLARISSA S. BATINO

NET portfolio outflow again increased to $142.5 million as of mid-December last year following an increase in the level of outbound hot money in the first half of December alone.

Documents from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas showed that in the first 15 days of December, outbound portfolio funds of $76.9 million edged out inflows of $41.3 million, leading to a net portfolio outflow of $35.6 million.

Traders and analysts said uncertainties on the impeachment trial continued to scare foreign portfolio investors and drove them out of the Philippine markets.

This was a reversal of a net portfolio inflow in the months of October and November when foreign investors were becoming more and more convinced that impeached President Estrada would relinquish his post.

Portfolio investments in the first 11 months of the year registered a net outflow of $109.6 million against a net inflow of $386.8 million in the same period last year.

The level of hot money that came in from January to November was at $2.79 billion against $2.89 billion in hot funds that were pulled out. The level of portfolio funds traded this year was a mere one-fourth of $10.499 billion in inflow and $10.11 billion in outflow in the first 11 months of 1999.

Foreign portfolio investments refer to purchases by non-residents of stocks listed in the local share market, government securities and money market instruments and peso deposits funded by inward remittances of foreign exchange from overseas.

"From inflow to outflow, we saw a swing of $500 million based on reports of the custodian banks," BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said.

The BSP's documents on hot money were based on the reports of foreign custodian banks HSBC, Standard Chartered Bank, Citibank, and Deutsche Bank. They account for 90 percent of portfolio investments in the country while the 10 percent it could not capture come from smaller banks.

Net portfolio inflow in November was the highest last year at $161.1 million. The substantial inflow from Philippine Depository Receipts issued by ABS-CBN in November boosted portfolio investments.

Buenaventura said more hot funds should slip back this year to take advantage of dirt-cheap prices in the local bourse as well as significant returns in government securities.

Hot money had been going out of the country for most part of last year. Inflows noticeably started trickling back in late September and analysts said this was because prices of local stocks were already trading cheap.

Text messages bring political protests to cyberspace

THE BEEP of a cellular phone sounds the rallying cry for the "text brigade," the tech-savvy Filipinos who have taken the fight against President Estrada into cyberspace.

The nation's large cell network and a craze for cheap instant text messages—some people send hundreds a day—are proving to be a potent tool in organizing instant protests.

And they are feeding a fertile rumor mill that officials are finding difficult and time-consuming to squelch. Acting Press Secretary Mike Toledo said his government was likely the first in the world to face a "text message barrage."

"Rumors are really running wild," Toledo said as he denied the latest round of messages—that Mr. Estrada had a heart attack, that he plans to flee to the United States or that his whole Cabinet resigned. "It's the season for disinformation."

It already was common to see Filipinos deftly typing out messages on their ever-present cell phones—one tap on the "2" for an "a," two on the "7" for an "h"—while walking in the mall, pushing a cart in the supermaket or waiting for a stoplight.

Some have even been known to use it to communicate from opposite ends of a noisy dining table.

The messages can run up to 160 characters at a reduced rate over voice calls.

The fad has taken on political connotations in the Estrada crisis. It starts as one person bangs out a brief text message to friends. They forward it to others. Expanding exponentially, messages can reach thousands in minutes.

The newly dubbed "text brigade" intensified Tuesday when senators voted to bar Mr. Estrada's impeachment trial prosecutors from evidence they said was crucial to proving he was corrupt.

Frantic messages called for noisy protests nationwide. Within an hour, the beeps turned into synchronized honking horns, banged trash cans, fireworks and protest chants in cities up and down the archipelago.

A flurry of messages then implored Filipinos to wear black. The color has come to symbolize the protests against Mr. Estrada.

One of the latest digital rally calls claimed the military would oust Mr. Estrada on Friday if the number of people attending street protests hit one million.

In the typical shorthand, it read: "Military nids 2 c 1 million critcal mass. pls join. pas on."

The messages are nearly indispensable to the anti-Estrada movement, protesters say.

"Text messages provide our

TEXT/ B2

CHECK No.
436931001
05 January 20 01
₱ 90,300.–
ACCOUNT No.
25-00113-8
ACCOUNT NAME
JUAN DELA CRUZ
PAY TO THE ORDER OF GM Autoworld
Ninety Thousand Three Hundred only
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Globe posts 65% rise in income

By Anthony O. Alcantara

GLOBE Telecom has reported a 65-percent increase in net income for 2000 to P1.55 billion from P940 million in 1999, mainly due to the growth in its cellular phone subscriber base.

The unaudited results were above market consensus based on Barras The Estimate Directory which forecast a net profit for Globe of P1.48 billion for the full year 2000.

Globe, a unit of Ayala Corp. and Singapore Telecommunications, posted revenues for the period of P20.1 billion, a jump of 113.83 percent from P9.4 billion in the previous year.

In a statement released yesterday, Globe said it breached the 2.5 million subscriber base mark by end-2000.

Over the last three months of 2000, Globe increased its subscriber base by about 400,000, an increase of about 130,000 new subscribers a month from October to December.

The company's wireless business contributed 78 percent of the net operating revenues while it wireline business contributed 14 percent.

The remaining 8 percent came from carrier services that cover national and international long distance services.

"We are thankful to our subscribers for their continued support to the Globe brand," said Globe president Gerardo Ablaza Jr. in the statement.

"We are extremely pleased to have managed the challenges of accelerated growth, and given the customer base we have built, we look forward to staying at the forefront of providing increasingly sophisticated wireless services."

Globe's earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (Ebitda) also increased by 118 percent to P8 billion from P3.7 billion in 1999. The overall performance for 2000 resulted in a return on equity rate of 9.3 percent last year from 6.9 percent.

The company's capital expenditure last year amounted to P19.2 billion while assets grew 74 percent to P63.5 billion from P36.5 billion a year ago.

However, wireless interconnection charges and payouts to other carriers declined to 12 percent of gross wireless revenues for 2000 from 15 percent in 1999 due to the growth in call traffic originating and terminating among Globe's subscribers.

The average monthly operating revenue per wireless subscriber (or average revenue per user, Arpu) declined by 5 percent to P1,693 for postpaid in 2000 from P1,773 in 1999 as a result of the effective reduction of wireless tariffs implemented in early 2000.

As for prepaid business, Arpu increased by 14 percent to P411 in 2000 from P359 the previous year partly because of increasing use of wireless data services.

International long distance revenues increased by 42 percent to P3.15 billion from P2.221 billion in 1999. This was a result of the increase in call volumes from 324 million minutes to 485 million minutes in 2000.

As for national long distance services, revenues increased to P2.02 billion in 2000 from P883 million in 1999 as call volumes increased to 524 million minutes, up 43 percent from 366 million minutes the previous year.

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

Top 10 gainers & losers at PSE

(2000, in pesos)

	GAINERS	PRICE Jan.	PRICE Dec.	% Change
1.	Manulife Fin'l Corp.	500.000	1,530.000	206.0%
2.	Sun Life Fin'l Services	470.000	1,280.000	172.3
3.	Chinatrust Comm'l Banking	9.500	18.250	92.1
4.	ATN Holdings Inc.	3.900	6.200	59.0
5.	William, Gothong & Aboitiz	1.140	1.740	52.6
6.	Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.380	0.560	47.4
7.	East Asia Power Resources	1.080	1.580	46.3
8.	Imperial Resources Inc. "A"	0.016	0.023	43.8
9.	Edsa Properties Holdings Inc.	1.200	1.700	41.7
10.	Pure Foods Corp. "A"	65.000	90.000	38.5
	LOSERS			
1.	Fairmont (fomerly BW Resources)	28.000	0.830	-97.0%
2.	Multitech Investments Corp.	9.900	0.510	-94.8
3.	Alsons Cement Corp.	2.500	0.175	-93.0
4.	AJO.net Holdings Inc.	9.100	0.900	-90.1
5.	Leisure & Resorts World Corp.	4.200	0.440	-89.5
6.	Omico Corp.	0.031	0.004	-87.7
7.	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.800	0.135	-83.1
8.	Fortune Cement	0.780	0.135	-82.7
9.	Reynolds Phils. Corp.	1.220	0.220	-82.0
10.	Premiere Entertainment	0.780	0.160	-79.5

Source: Technistock

Two foreign insurers, Manulife and Sunlife, managed to defy the bearish sentiments in the local market. Stocks of the two companies are also listed in the US, Canada and other Asian markets, making them less vulnerable to political risks unlike other companies listed solely in the country. The top loser was Fairmont Holdings, formerly BW Resources, which got embroiled in price manipulation scandal that affected the entire bourse. In 1999, its share price soared to as high as P97 per share but at the close of the last trading day of 2000, it was down to less than P1 per share.

Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

MRTC hatches new fund-raising scheme

By Doris C. Dumlao

A GROUP of shareholders of mass transport operator Metro Rail Transit Corp. Ltd. (MRTC) led by publicly listed Fil-Estate Corp. has hatched a new financing scheme backed by their future earnings in the MRT III project.

Five out of seven members of the MRT consortium, including infrastructure and property development company Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp., have signed a deal with TBS Kappitel Corp. Pte. Ltd. to securitize their rights to receive dividends related to the MRT III project.

Fil-Estate Corp. and Anglo-Phil submitted separate disclosures on the securitization scheme to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday.

A spokesperson said only two members of the consortium—namely Ayala Land Inc. and Allante Realty and Development Inc.—did not join the securitization deal. Analysts said these companies did not need the additional funds from the scheme.

Some unlisted members of the consortium that joined Fil-Estate and Anglo-Phil in the deal were: Ramcar Inc., Greenfield Development Corp. and DBH Inc.

Fil-Estate Corp. president Ferdinand Santos said that under the securitization deal, their right to receive dividends related to the MRT III project would be pledged to TBS Kappitel in exchange for bonds and/or instruments.

"The agreement is part of the company's asset securitization program, which paves the way for the tapping of new liquidity sources for the company," Santos said.

But Fil-Estate, Anglo-Phil and other consortium members that took part in the deal, which was signed on Jan. 18, would continue to be the beneficial owner of the shares of stock in Metro Rail Transit Holdings Inc.

MRTC is the joint venture firm operating MRT while MRT Holdings, of which Fil-Estate is the second-biggest stockholder, owns 84 percent of MRTC.

Analysts explained that the securitization deal would be good for Fil-Estate and the other consortium members because it would provide them an avenue to generate additional funds without selling out of the project. They said the securitization deal was attractive enough for a foreign group like TBS because the earnings of the MRT III project were guaranteed by the Philippine government anyway.

The Fil-Estate group, for its part, was reported to be pursuing the backdoor listing strategy for MRTC when its listed unit Fil-Estate Corp. took over its exposure in the joint venture company.

The Fil-Estate group is one of the country's most diverse property companies and, through Fil-Estate Management, is also the single largest shareholder in MRTC, operator of the Metrostar Express.

The group also earlier said it was holding talks to sell 15 to 20 percent of its business interests to foreign investors through spin-off companies that will separately handle its property, leisure, housing and infrastructure businesses.

Bank of America had committed to bankroll its property development projects while Sumitomo Corp. and Mitsui Corp. of Japan were ready to buy into Fil-Estate's infrastructure business.

Text messages . . .

(From page B1)

whole system of communications," said Joyce Munsayac, a protest organizer with Kompil, an umbrella group for a wide array of anti-Estrada factions. "I'm sending 300 to 400 a day myself."

Cell phone administrators say the 720,000 subscribers of Globe Telecom, the main company, pass 18 million messages on a normal day.

But the government says Estrada has mass support among the Filipino poor—people who can't afford to wage a cyberspace counterattack.

"We hope people will start to see these malicious rumors as a joke and just turn their cell phones off," said Toledo, Estrada's spokesman. *AP*

₱652M worth of IT projects get perks

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE BOARD of Investments has granted pioneer incentives to four information technology projects worth a total of P652 million.

Topping the list of project approvals is the P256.045-million venture of Vinta Systems Inc., A 50-50 venture between Systems Standards Inc. and Peter Valdez.

Vinta is planning to develop four key application software—e-loans (a Web-enabled processing system for loans), e-Pay (a Web-enabled system for online payment transactions), ensure (Web-enabled processing of non-life and pre-need insurance applications), and Vinta Insure (where Vinta's software can be embedded into other branded products or application service providers).

Vinta's P256.045 million project cost will be spent over a five-year period with commercial operations expected to start by June this year.

Vinta's software program is expected to complement SSI (which merged with publicly listed Global Equities Inc.) B2B (business-to-business) portal called PhilBX which was launched late last year.

The BOI also granted pioneer incentives to Meridian Telekoms Inc., owned by a kin of Estrada crony Mark Jimenez and restaurateur Vic Villavicencio, which is spending P167.392 million to become an Internet service provider offering broadband services. Meridian hopes to service 3,000 subscribers mainly corporations and small- and medium-enterprises. The project will create 768 new jobs at full capacity with commercial operations to start next month.

Previously, the BOI granted pioneer incentives to Meridian's P640 million data inter-exchange carrier wireless broadband network.

Another undertaking approved by the BOI was the P128.426-million application service provider project of Philenter.com, Inc. owned by the Akol and Mendoza family.

Philenter.com has a website where it maintains a display of products of all its subscribers where interested buyers can sift through their preferred items for raw materials and components. The project will start commercial operations by June this year.

Yapster e-Trade Inc.'s P100.49 million project to provide online stock market trading and back office support facility. Yapster is owned by the family of broker Felipe Yap.

DISCLOSURES

LEPANTO Consolidated Co. produced 14,311 ounces of gold, 218,808 pounds of copper and 50,357 ounces of silver in Dec. 2000.

* * *

CORRO-COAT Inc. announced that from the proceeds of its initial public offering, it paid some P25 million in loan to the company's creditor banks.

* * *

THE BOARD of **Chinatrust (Phils.) Commercial Bank Corp.** has accepted the resignation of Larry T. Villareal, Ricardo S. Po and Meng Tam Ng as directors of the company. They elected Rodney Ming-Shiang Lu as director until the 2001 annual stockholders' meeting.

* * *

VICTORIAS Milling Co. Inc. will hold a special stockholders' meeting on Jan. 25, 2001 at 2:30 p.m. at the Ayala Banquet Hall, Makati Sports Club Inc., Alfaro corner Gallardo Sts., Salcedo Village, Makati City.

* * *

THE BOARD of **Abacus Consolidated Resources and Holdings Inc.** re-appointed **Fidelity Stock Transfers Inc.** as its transfer agents and **Laya Mananghaya & Co.** as its external auditors.

* * *

ANGLO Philippine Holdings Corp. entered into an agreement on Jan. 18, 2001 involving the securitization of rights to receive dividends on investments in the Metro Rail Transit III Project in favor of **TBS Kappitel Corp. Pte. Ltd.** in exchange for bonds.

* * *

GOTESCO Land Inc. elected Elvy T. Go as treasurer in place of Jose L. Camus who resigned effective Jan. 18, 2001.

* * *

UNION Cement Corp. said the SEC approved on Jan. 11, 2001 the articles and plan of merger executed on April 10, 2000 by the company (surviving corporation) and Atlas Cement Marketing Corp., Davao Union Marketing Corp. and Bacnotan Marketing Corp. (absorbed corporations).

* * *

CHEMICAL Industries of the Philippines Inc. clarified that RA 8970 entitled 'An Act Prohibiting the Manufacture, Importation, Distribution and Sale of Laundry and Industrial Detergents Containing Hard Surfactants and Providing Penalties for Violation Thereof' would mean the loss of about 1,850 metric tons in local HAB sales volume or P67.33 million in sales revenue.

* * *

SOLID Group Inc, (SGI) purchased 1,480,000 of its shares at P0.43 per share on the Philippine Stock Exchange last Jan. 18, 2001.

* * *

ELECTED as director of **Atok Big-Wedge Co. Inc.** was Atty. Val Antonio B. Suarez replacing Manuel A. Estrella who resigned as director.

* * *

THE LIQUIDITY assistance given by the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. (PDIC) and Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to the Philippine National Bank will be available as may be needed by PNB until a sensible rehabilitation plan is considered, approved and put into place by BSP and PDIC. ***Compiled by Ray Leyesa, PDI Research***

Stocks up 1%

(From page B1)

"Investors are indecisive as to what the outcome of the political situation will be," said Edison Yap, fund manager of Equitable PCI Bank. "Some funds may be hedging because prices have gone down, so they're nibbling on the market a bit, but others are pessimistic."

Yap said there is no telling what direction the market will take as the political overhang remains.

"It really depends on how sustainable liquidity flows will be, which will depend on what will happen in the streets over the weekend," he said. *AP*

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Friday, January 19, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	58.5	60	58.5	60	348,700
China Banking Corp.	750	750	750	750	4,390
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	53.5	54.5	53.5	54	3,435,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	171	180	171	177	324,580
Philippine National Bank	37.5	37.5	36.5	36.5	6,300
Phil. Savings Bank	29	30	29	30	5,900
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1300	1300	1270	1270	2,670
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	142,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1200	1200	1170	1175	3,730
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	45	45	44	44.5	96,500
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	230,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	670	680	670	680	900
Piltel	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	250,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.44	0.45	0.44	0.45	350,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	870	870	860	865	153,930
Ivantage Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	10,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.032	0.034	0.032	0.033	46,700,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	46	46	45	45	322,300
Manila Electric Co. B	48.5	48.5	48	48	2,903,100
Petron Corp.	1.2	1.28	1.2	1.28	5,974,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	-	-	-	-	-
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	0.73	0.73	0.7	0.7	750,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.37	0.38	0.37	0.38	110,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	10,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	2.26	2.26	2.2	2.2	2,658,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	9.6	9.9	9.6	9.9	1,312,000
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	31.5	32	31.5	32	68,000
San Miguel Corp. A	48.5	49	48.5	49	135,300
San Miguel Corp. B	56	57	56	57	140,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	3,522,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	4,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	12	12	11.5	11.75	1,700
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.004	0.0042	0.004	0.0042	30,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.16	2.26	2.16	2.26	15,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	1,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	2.75	2.8	2.7	2.7	8,195,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	120,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.28	1,070,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	500,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	20,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	20.5	20.5	20.25	20.5	79,300
Global Equities Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	10,000
Ionics Inc.	15	15	15	15	100,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc	2.12	2.14	2.12	2.14	320,000
Keppel Phil. Holdings	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	20,000
Keppel Phil. Holdings B	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	20,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.79	0.79	0.78	0.79	1,300,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.13	0.155	0.13	0.155	20,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.56	0.57	0.56	0.56	690,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.44	0.44	250,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.31	0.32	0.31	0.31	1,000,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.26	0.28	0.26	0.28	1,050,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	5,000
Macondray Plastics Inc.	6.2	6.3	6.2	6.3	8,000
Music Corporation	2.8	2.85	2.75	2.85	412,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	7.8	8	7.8	8	206,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.66	0.66	0.65	0.65	500,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.45	0.51	107,340,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	20,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	44	44	43	43	788,500
DMCI Holdings Inc- Pref.	560	560	555	555	120
Equitable PCI Bank-War	2.9	3.05	2.85	3	258,000
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	30,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,200
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.5	5.7	5.4	5.5	18,922,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	340,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.195	0.195	1,610,000
Cyber Bay Corporation	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	500,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.35	0.4	0.35	0.4	39,240,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.36	1.4	1.36	1.38	6,982,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.31	0.36	0.31	0.36	30,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.6	5.7	5.4	5.4	42,542,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0048	0.0048	0.0046	0.0046	15,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	100,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	10,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	400,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	100,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	15,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0042	0.0044	0.0042	0.0044	30,000,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	400,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	4,273,270	274,908,090.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	915,172,367	568,455,818.27
PRO	110,166,000	359,757,030.00
Mining	15,610,000	193,700.00
OIL	45,400,000	260,000.00
GRAND TOTALS :	1,090,621,637	1,203,574,638.27

AVERAGES			
Banks & Fin Svc	547.44	UP	12.41
Comm'l & Ind'l	2,051.92	UP	14.67
PRO	498.21	UP	7.75
Mining	1,210.12	DOWN	8.39
OIL	1.76	DOWN	0.01
All Shares Index	764.40	DOWN	19.56
Composite	1,452.93	UP	14.72

NO. OF ADVANCES: 34; NO. OF DECLINES: 21; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 25; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 80; NO. OF TRADES: 2,941

CURRENCIES

Jan. 19, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.058985	1.000000	55.0130
Japan	Yen	0.008980	0.008480	0.4665
United Kingdom	Pound	1.561156	1.474200	81.1002
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.136835	0.129213	7.1084
Switzerland	Franc	0.654422	0.617971	33.9964
Canada	Dollar	0.700433	0.661419	36.3866
Singapore	Dollar	0.609489	0.575540	31.6622
Australia	Dollar	0.588489	0.555710	30.5713
Bahrain	Dinar	2.809130	2.652661	145.9308
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.282358	0.266631	14.6682
Brunei	Dollar	0.608962	0.575043	31.6348
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000112	0.000106	0.0058
Thailand	Baht	0.024513	0.023148	1.2734
UAE	Dirham	0.288355	0.272294	14.9797
Korea	Won	0.000825	0.000779	0.0429
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.944300	51.9488
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.482813	26.5610
France	Franc	0.152450	0.143958	7.9196
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453781	0.428505	23.5733
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.068625	3.7753
Belgium	Franc	0.024790	0.023409	1.2878
Italy	Lire	0.000517	0.000488	0.0268
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.158820	8.7372
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.00471	0.2591
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005675	0.3122
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024790	0.023409	1.2878
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.199014	65.9614

US slowdown not a recession, says Fed exec

WASHINGTON—Current US economic conditions do not meet the acid test for a recession, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis President William Poole said Thursday.

He said most economists believe that to qualify as a true recession, an economic downturn must meet the test of the three Ds—duration, depth and dispersion.

"Duration, it must be more than a blip on the economic horizon; depth, it must be deep; and dispersion, it must be across a wide range of industries," Poole said after a speech in Memphis, Tennessee to the Risk Management Association.

"The economy doesn't meet the three-D test."

Poole, who said Monday a recession was possible but not "a best guess," said in Memphis that growth would be slower in 2001 than it was last year, saying he saw gross domestic product rising anywhere from one to 4 percent this year.

In his speech Thursday, Poole said monetary policy must be sufficiently predictable that financial markets do not get taken aback or misunderstand the intentions of the central bank.

"The markets ought to be able to predict with substantial accuracy how the central bank will respond to various circumstances that may arise," he said.

"I believe that Federal Reserve policy should be as regular and predictable as the inherent uncertainties of the situation permit," Poole, who is a voting member of the central bank's policymaking panel this year, added.

The Fed surprised markets earlier this month by cutting interest rates a hefty half-point—a move Poole did not refer to directly in his Thursday speech. The Fed said it was taking the action to help prop up the flagging economy.

In a separate speech Thursday, Fed Governor Edward Gramlich said it was not always a simple task for monetary policymakers to act preemptively.

"It's not necessarily easy to stay ahead of the curve," he told the Association for Investment Management and Research in Tucson, Arizona.

"But I think it is important for the Fed or any other central bank to do its job well," he said, adding it was an issue "that we're obviously dealing with in Washington today."

Poole, in his speech on Monday to the Missouri Bankers Association released to Reuters on Thursday, said: "The fact that market interest rates moved ahead of the FOMC does not mean that the Fed got behind."

The St. Louis Fed president told the Risk Management Association in Memphis that the potential for shocks or surprises always exists and that monetary policy should be shaped with that in mind.

"I think it is fair to say that in recent years, most policy surprises have really not been policy surprises per se but instead policy responses to surprises in the economic environment," Poole said.

"When economic conditions appear to be changing rapidly, a policy response may well be appropriate."

In the speech, which did not deal extensively with current economic conditions, Poole did say the US economy was facing "increased uncertainty at present."

He said insuring against risk was not a mistake and that monetary policy decisions should not be judged "by the standards of the Monday-morning quarterback."

Poole said the Fed must always focus on its long-term goal of low and stable inflation "responding to short-run events when possible but only to the extent consistent with the long-run objective."

"That is the way, I believe, that the Fed can minimize risks," he said.

Poole said the Fed could use monetary policy to stimulate the economy and employment while keeping an eye on the inflation ball.

"If the depressing forces dissipate, the monetary stimulus can be withdrawn; then, the net effect is that the central bank cushions what would otherwise be a disturbance to output and employment without creating a lasting effect tending to raise the rate of inflation," Poole said.

Reuters

Barshefsky says WTO talks could be launched next year

WASHINGTON—Outgoing US Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky said Thursday she saw some chance a new round of world trade talks could be launched by the end of the year.

In her last speech before leaving office, Barshefsky said she was encouraged that the European Union's executive body was seeking a "slimmed-down" negotiating agenda from its member states for the proposed World Trade Organization talks.

"This mandate will be extremely close to what we offered to Europe in Seattle, but which Europe turned down," she said.

Differences between the world's largest trading partners over the agenda were one reason that WTO talks failed to get off the ground at the trade body's last ministerial meeting in Seattle in December 1999.

The United States complained the agenda sought by the European Commission, the European Union's executive body, was too broad and contentious to finish within the goal of three years.

The European Union appeared now to be moving to "a much more slimmed-down version of what we've seen previously," Barshefsky said. "That is very much to the good."

If the European Union also would agree to move faster on farm trade reform, "then I think a launch of a new round is possible, perhaps by the end of the year," she said.

The WTO is expected to hold its next ministerial meeting in late 2001, most likely in the Gulf state of Qatar.

After six years as top US trade negotiator, Barshefsky will leave office before resolving major trade disputes with the European Union over beef, bananas and export tax breaks.

In a speech to the European-American Business Council on Wednesday, Barshefsky blamed much of the strain in the cross-Atlantic trade relationship on an unwieldy decision-making process in Europe.

"We often find an opaque system and unclear lines of authority between the Commission and the member states, which slows decision making and appears to make it difficult for the Commission to change policies," she said. *Reuters*

Japan central banker stuns market with yen remarks

TOKYO—Japan's central bank chief said yesterday a slide in the yen had gone too far, contradicting the line taken by Finance Ministry officials who helped knock the currency to 18-month lows to prop up the economy.

Bank of Japan Governor Masaru Hayami, speaking to reporters after meeting economic ministers, caught the market off guard by saying the yen was now too weak.

It is down 5 percent this year and hit an 18-month low Thursday of 119.90 per dollar.

"The yen is too weak," he said, triggering a swift rebound in the currency to 116.95 against the dollar from around 118 in late New York trading. The yen later settled at 117.76.

Hayami's words fly in the face of recent statements by Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, who signaled tacit approval for a softer yen by saying the yen's fate was up to the market and that its weakness should be no cause for alarm.

Some analysts said the apparently diverging views were really just two sides of the same coin—both wanted a stable economy and Hayami might be trying to put a floor under the yen to prevent the market driving it down too far.

"Hayami would rather not see a sharp currency depreciation, especially if there are signs that the currency may be falling like a stone," said Yoshito Sakakibara, a senior economist at Merrill Lynch Japan Inc in Tokyo.

But traders said the net result was at uncertainty over what exactly authorities wanted as a tentative recovery in the economy looked in danger of stalling after a short burst of growth early last year and with the stock market struggling near 27-month lows.

Sowing more confusion, Miyazawa signaled in a speech his continued support for a weak yen only a hours after Hayami's remark, saying there was no need to take action in the foreign exchange market for now.

This echoed his comments earlier this week that the yen's fall had not been disruptive and he was happy for the moment to watch from the sidelines.

"I am watching movements carefully, but I don't think the situation is at a stage where I need to do anything in particular. I don't think it will become problematic for a while," he said without elaborating.

Other high-ranking finance officials, including Economics Minister Fukushiro Nukaga on Friday, have joined Miyazawa recently in leaving the impression that the government wants a weak yen to give the economy a stronger lift by helping exports.

Reuters

Equitable PCI BANK

INVITATION TO BID

The ACQUIRED ASSETS DIVISION of Equitable PCIBank is inviting offers to purchase by the way of sealed bids, in cash and on "as-is-where-is" basis, the following real estate properties:

TCT NO./AREA (In sqms.)/DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	PRICE
I. METRO MANILA		
1) 15571-72/610 m2/res./comm'l. w/ impvt	NO. 52 San Rafael St., Bo. Jolo, Mandaluyong City	P 27,824,150
II. PROVINCIAL		
1) T-484400-R-401-R/752 m2/res.	L12 Villa Victoria Subd., Bo. San Juan & Dolores, San Fernando, Pampanga	3,128,800
2) T-14566-69/1,920,000 m2/res./ind'l.	Bgy. Larap, Jose Panganiban, Camarines Norte	37,881,638
3) T-14565 & T-14570/563,417 m2/res./ind'l.	Bgy. Larap, Jose Panganiban, Camarines Norte	9,640,690
4) T-232646-48/5,733 m2/res.	Sta. Clara Subdivision, Banago, Bacolod City	18,236,400

Complete [illegible] specifications of the above properties, rules & regulations on the bidding procedures and the prescribed bid forms are available from the following officers:

All Properties MS. BERNIE PEÑAFIEL/AVP/LUCHIE M. CASTILLO/AO//GISELLE P. ESPIRITU/AO/ KAREN U. RESARI/AO -Tel. Nos. 817-2822/840-7644/817-4564

Bidding will be held on Feb. 13, 2001 at 10:00 A.M., 11/F SAM Con. Rm., Equitable PCIBank Tower 1, Makati Ave., Makati City for all items. Bidders deposit equivalent to 10% of the minimum bid price in the form of cash or Manager's/Cashier's check together with the duly accomplished bid form must be enclosed in the sealed bid. All bids will be opened immediately after the deadline for submission of bids. All winning bids are subject to approval by the Bank's approving authority.

The Tomlinson Collection

Famous for its timeless style and superb craftsmanship, classical Chinese furniture is characterized by simple form and design, clean lines, excellent proportions, sophisticated joinery, and beautiful wood grains.

The standard of crafstmanship is unmatched. The Chinese craftsmen had created furniture that ingenuously combined functionality and beauty. The intricate joinery is the sole method used to connect one member to another

Today, craftsmen at the restoration facility of **Tomlinson Collection** keep this noble tradition alive in the restoration process. A process that has become art in itself.

All tongues and grooves forming the joinery are checked thoroughly to determine their condition. The joineries are then strengthened.

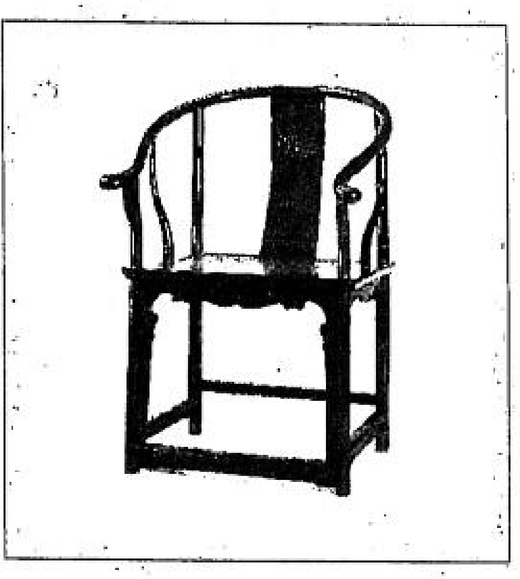
For the pieces that are still in good condition, Tomlinson retains the original patina of the wood. Otherwise, minor scratches are removed and small damages are repaired carefully. The wood is then stripped, exposing its natural raw open grain.

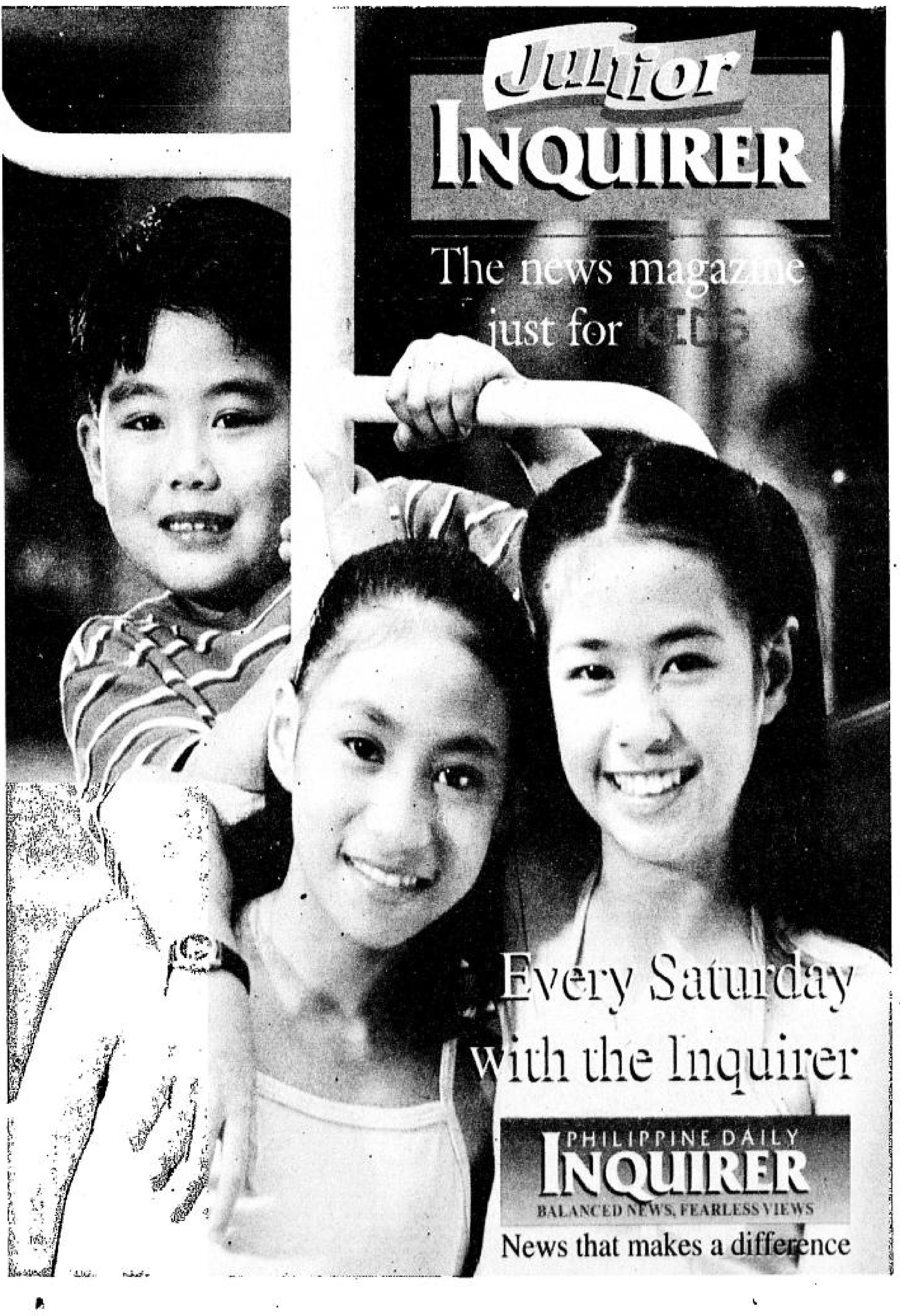
Eight layers of Tang oil, a heat and water-resistant substance from the Tang tree, is applied directly onto the wood to nourish and recondition it.

Finally each piece of furniture is re-assembled using traditional joinery methods.

Connoisseurs now consider restored Chinese antique furniture as authentic pieces when the original form, beauty of the wood, and uniformity of construction or joinery have been retained.

40 Jupiter St. cor. Paseo de Roxas Ave. Bel-Air III Village, City of Makati Tel. No. 890-9302, 895-7618

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JUAN J. TUERES, JR.

*The spouse of the late **Cresida Canlas Tueres**,*
has eternally joined her in the
Kingdom of our Lord on this day,
the 18th of January 2001
at the age of 65.

His bereaved mother **Rizalina**; his children **Juan III**, **Jose Francisco** and **Geraldine Angela**, **Maria Yvonne** and **Raymond**, **Maria Carmeli**; and grandchildren **Francesca**, **Martina** and **Adrian**; his in-laws, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Mt. Carmel Hall, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish, New Manila, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, the 21st of January 2001 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina, after the 2:00 PM Mass.

In loving memory of
"An Officer and a Gentleman"

COL. JUSTO A. AURELLANO, PAF (RET.)

February 29, 1916 - January 20, 2000
A loving husband, best Papa, greatest Grandpa, our friend.

Holy Masses will be offered as follows:

Gregorian Mass @ 6:00 AM, January 16 - February 15, 2001
Sto. Domingo Church, Quezon City
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish @ 6:00 AM, January 20th
Jersey Road, Project 8, Quezon City
Our Mother of Perpetual Help - National Shrine @ 6:45 AM, Jan 20th
Baclaran, Pasay
San Nicolas de Tolentino Parish @ 6:00 AM, January 20th
Neptune Street, Congressional Road, Quezon City
Sta. Cruz Church @ 8:00 AM, January 20th
Sta. Cruz, Manila
Holy Family Chapel @ 8:00 AM, January 21st
GSIS Village, Project 8, Quezon City

Feming Aurellano and children request relatives and friends and pious readers to join them in praying for the eternal repose of his soul.
May he rest in peace.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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MESSAGE OF THANKS

"Whoever hears my word and believes in HIM who sent Me has external life... he has crossed over from death to life."
John 5:24

We, the family of the late

BERNABE O. GALANG, SR.

who was called into the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ
on December 31, 2000

wish to thank all those who offered prayers, sent flowers, kept vigil, attended the funeral rites and condoled with us.

To God be the glory.

MANUELA RAS ROSALES

of Calbayog City, Samar

(January 15, 1905 - January 17, 2001)

We announce with great sorrow the passing away of our beloved Miss Manuela Ras Rosales.

Her remains lie in state at Calbayog City residence and the funeral will be held on January 20, 2001, Saturday at exactly 11:00 a.m. after the Mass at Saint Peter and Paul Cathedral, Calbayog City, Western Samar. Her brothers **Julio Cardinal Rosales** (†), former **Senator Decoroso** (†), **Rev. Msgr. Basilio**; sister **Quintina** (†); sister-in-law **Rosita Sepulveda** (†); and nephews **Roberto** and **Esteban** and their respective spouses, children and grandchildren request the readers a prayer for her eternal repose.

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
John 14:6

Virginia Leon Sta. Ana

Peacefully joined our Lord
on January 17, 2001
at the age of 77.

Her bereaved husband **Augusto**; children **Filomeno** and **Benita**; her in-laws **Nitz** and **Eddie Boy**; her grandchildren **A**, **Beneddi**, **J.R.**, **Denise**, **Eleonor**, and **E.J.**; her great grandson **Philip**; and her relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at their residence at No. 20 Dr. Sixto Antonio Avenue, Kapasigan, Pasig City.

Interment will be on Sunday, January 21 after 1 p.m. Mass at the Immaculate Conception Parish Church of Pasig.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:16

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INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY

The PNOC Coal Corporation (PNOC-CC) invites interested contractors with license and accreditation from the appropriate government agencies to apply for prequalification under the following work specialties:

	WORK SPECIALITY	LICENSE/ACCREDITATION
1.	Securities Services	Philippine National Police S.O.S.I.A.
2.	General and Janitorial Services	Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE)
3.	Lighterage Services	Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA)
4.	Stevedoring and Arrastre Services	Philippine Port Authority (PPA)
5.	Draft/Topographic Survey	Philippine Coast Guard (PCG)
6.	Hauling/Trucking Services	Board of Transportation (BOT)/Land Transportation Franchising Regulatory Board (LTFRB)
7.	Maintenance Services (carpet cleaning, electrical and machinery equipment and controls, airconditioning units)	Department of Trade and Industry-Accreditation Board
8.	Pier Works Dredging	Philippine Contractor's Accreditation Board (PCAB)
9.	General Construction	Philippine Contractor's Accreditation Board (PCAB)

Prequalification documents may be secured from the Administrative Department (c/o Mr. George N. Alejandro) starting **January 23, 2001** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PESOS: One Hundred (P100.00). For further inquiries, please call Mr. Alejandro at Tel. No. 893-0232.

(Sgd.) **FERNANDO C. VILLANUEVA**
Chairman
Prequalification, Bidding and Awards Committee

(PDI – Jan. 20, 2001)

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INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY

The PNOC Coal Corporation (PNOC-CC) invites interested suppliers to apply for prequalification under the following categories:

SUPPLY CATEGORY

1. Computers and Peripherals
2. Stationaries and Office Supplies
3. Telecommunication Supplies
4. Hardware and Electrical Supplies
5. Heavy Equipment Spare Parts (Cummins)
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7. Office Furnitures
8. Laboratory and Industrial Chemicals (Barium Nitrates, Potassium Nitrates)
9. Bearings
10. Hydraulic Hoses
11. Instrumentation
12. Pipes and Plates
13. Valves and Fittings
14. Tires (Heavy Equipment, Skid Loader, Vehicles)

Prequalification documents may be secured from the Administrative Department (c/o George N. Alejandro) starting **January 23, 2001** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PESOS: One Hundred (P100.00). For further inquiries, please call Mr. Alejandro at Tel. No. 893-0232.

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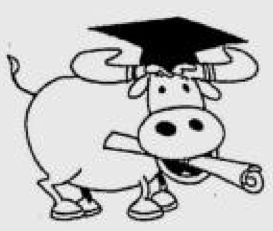

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The PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY (PNOC) invites Suppliers and Contractors to apply for accreditation for future requirement for the following products and services:

- Office Equipment and Supplies
- IT Equipment, Peripherals and Supplies
- Hardware Tools and Supplies
- Electrical Equipment and Supplies
- Purified Drinking Water
- Printing Services
- Pest Control Services
- Shuttle Bus/Transportation Services
- Surveying and Appraisal Services
- PABX Maintenance Services
- Canteen Concessionaire

Interested parties may obtain pre-qualification documents upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00 from the PNOC - Property and Supply Management Division (PSMD) at the G/F of the PNOC Building.

Applicants with favorable result shall be included in the PNOC's List of Accredited Suppliers and Contractors and shall be eligible to join future biddings for the Company's requirement.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. PEDRO A. AQUINO, JR.**
Senior Vice President
Legal, Admin. and Estate Management Services

(PDI – Jan. 20 & 27, 2001)

INQUIRER TRiViA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

Powerpuff Girls

Q. Who created the Powerpuff Girls?

A. Blossom, Buttercup and Bubbles – the pint-sized superheroines who save the world before bedtime – are the brainchild of 28-year-old Craig McCracken. He created them in 1991 as a college animation project in his sophomore year at the California Institute of Arts in a cartoon he originally titled The Whoopass Girls.

The animation company Hanna Barbera saw Craig's Whoopass Girls, and thought it would make a cute series. But since "Whoopass" wasn't appropriate for television, especially about little girls, the name "Powerpuff" was adopted.

The Powerpuff Girls premiered on Cartoon Network in 1995 as part of "World Premiere Toons" shorts in the episode "Meat Fuzzy Lumpkins." Their very first real episode were "Monkey See, Doggie Do" and "Mommy Fearest" which aired on November 19, 1998. Needless to say, the popularity and appeal of these adorable large-eyed lasses, and they are now one of the highest rated shows on cable. McCracken is now working on his first Powerpuff Girls feature-length movie, scheduled for release in 2002.

For the Record. Wonder Woman (aka Diana Prince) was created in 1941 by Dr. William Moulton Marston, inventor of the systolic blood-pressure test which lead to the development of the polygraph (lie detector). Using the test, Marston was convinced that women were more honest and reliable than men and could work faster and more accurately. As an educational consultant for Detective Comics, Inc. (now better known as DC Comics), he saw that the DC line was filled with super males (such as Green Lantern, Batman, and Superman) and wondered why there was not a female hero. With the approval of Max Gaines, then head of DC Comics, Marston proceeded to create a female comic book hero – a "Wonder Woman." He used the pen name Charles Moulton, a combination of his own middle name with the middle name of Gaines:

WORD WATCH

Maton : from the Spanish *maton*, 'bully.'

PDI – January 20, 2001

Mini Job Fair AT THE Glorietta

The **INQUIRER**'s **JOB MARKET** will hold a **"mini" Job Fair** on **January 24 to 26, 2001;** 1 to 8 p.m. at Level 3, Glorietta III, Ayala Center, Makati City (near Racks). Be part of this recruitment special and be included in our **Resumé Reserve** categorized database.

PLACE A 60 COL. CM. AD (MINIMUM SIZE) IN THE JANUARY 21, 2001 ISSUE OF JOB MARKET TO ENJOY THE FOLLOWING:

- **FREE Job Market Online** placement for five (5) Job categories
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"I am the resurrection and the life.
He who believes in Me, will live, even though he dies,
and whoever believes in Me will never die."
John 11: 25-26

In Loving Memories

LUCIA "Nanay Lucing" INTON Vda. De VIACRUSIS

December 13, 1924 - January 22, 1999

On her Second Death Anniversary

Her children **Cesar** and **Belen**, **Ding** and **Miriam**, **Bot** and **Nessy**, **Beng**, **Jess** and **Rosie**, **Chie**, **Boy** and **Erma**, **Viring** and **Ave**, **Bong** and **Lea**; and her grandchildren **Vic, Jun, Albert, Jean, Rachelle, Mydee, Paul, Randy, Eric, Hernan, Tek, Lorie, Jay R, Mutya, Anne, Leó, Francis, Andy, Beth, Lucia Rin, Christian, Matty, AJ** and **Janet** and other relatives and friends to remember her in their prayers.

The Holy Mass will be offered at the following churches on January 22, 2001.

Columban Church .... 6:00 AM
Olongapo City
Holy Family Church .... 7:00 AM
Kalaklan, Olongapo City
Carmelite Monastery .... 7:30 AM
Ilwas Subic, Zambales
Olongapo Memorial Park .... 10:30 AM
Olongapo City
St. Joseph Church .... 5:00 PM
Olongapo City

In Loving Memory

on the 11th Death Anniversary
of

MERCEDES R. CUADRANTE

Who died in the grace of our Lord
on January 20, 1990

Masses will be offered at:

Church:	Time:
Sanctuario de San Jose	7:15 AM 6:15 PM
Mary The Queen	6:00 AM 7:00 AM 6:00 PM

On January 20, 2001
Her family, relatives and friends request the pious readers to say a prayer in her memory for the eternal repose of her soul.

THE AUGUSTINIAN SISTERS OF OUR LADY OF CONSOLATION
ANNOUNCE THE DEATH
OF

SISTER FELICIDAD BALDONADO TOLOPIA, OSA

on January 19, 2001 at the age of 83.
FUNERAL MASS WILL BE ON
Saturday, January 20, 2001 at 8:00 A.M.
AT THE LA CONSOLACION CONVENT CHAPEL
273 SANTOLAN ROAD, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA.
INTERMENT WILL FOLLOW AT THE LA LOMA CEMETERY
aftter the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

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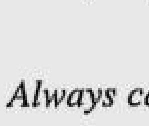

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INVITATION TO LEASE LAND

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Interested parties may secure the Terms of Reference and other bid documents from the Cashier's Office at 7th Floor, Public Estates Authority, Legaspi Tower 200, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City from **January 29 - February 2, 2001**, upon payment of non-refundable fee of P500.00.

(Sgd.) **JAIME R. MILLAN**
Chairman, Asset Disposition Committee

(PDI - Jan 15 20 & 24 2001)

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PUBLIC NOTICES

PERSONAL

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Holy Spirit thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You, no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your Perpetual Glory. Amen. - **MAM**

NOVENA PRAYER TO ST. JUDE
O, HOLY ST. JUDE apostle and martyr, great in virtue, rich in miracles, near in kinsman of Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor of all who invoke your special patronage, in time of need, to you I have recourse from the depth of my heart and humbly beg to whom God has given such great power to come to my assistance. Help me in my present, urgent petition (make your request). In return, I promise to make your name known and cause you to be invoked. Saint Jude, pray for us and all who invoke your aid. Pray this nine times a day for nine consecutive days. On the eighth day your prayers will be answered, for this prayer has never known to fail. Please don't forget to publish this once your wish is granted.

NOVENA TO THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS AND SAINT JUDE
May the most Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, blessed, loved, adored and glorified throughout the whole world now and forever. Amen.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Pray for us.

St. Jude, worker of miracles, helper for the helpless, pray for us.

Shark cartilage cited as anticancer therapy

MANY cancer patients pin their hopes on new breakthrough drugs, which attack tumor cells directly. Natural supplementary therapies, such as shark cartilage, which indirectly kill tumor cells by inhibiting its blood supply, offer an additional scientific and nontoxic alternative.

Dr. Charles Simone, a renowned cancer specialist in the United States and head of the Protective Cancer Center in New Jersey, has published his protocol for the treatment of cancer cases with shark cartilage. The protocol, which is basically a documented design for a clinical evaluation of the natural product, details the objectives, dosage and other information on the administration of shark cartilage. It has been approved by the National Institute of Health in the United States.

There is growing enthusiasm in the scientific community on the use of shark cartilage in the prevention and complementary treatment of nonresponsive solid cancer tumors. Worldwide, approximately 25,000 patients are using the therapy today. Although most investigators use high doses, there is no standard dose used in most clinical trials.

Helping treat cancer cells

Shark cartilage is believed to play an important role in preventing and helping treat cancer cells by inhibiting blood vessel growth known as angiogenesis. This helps in killing cancer cells by inhibiting the development of a blood vessel network.

In Dr. Simone's protocol, patients with any documented advanced cancer may be included if conventional chemotherapy or radiotherapy are no longer deemed suitable by the physician. Patients are to be clinically evaluated weekly, and objectively using laboratory and imaging parameters at week 6 and 12. The use of cartilage is to be discontinued if tumor progression is demonstrated between weeks 8 and 12. All patients are to be instructed on the Simone Ten-point Plan, which emphasizes dietary, behavioral and other lifestyle changes on the cancer patients.

The physician investigators may withdraw a patient from the protocol at any time when there is progressive disease, patient's desire to withdraw from the evaluation, or patient's poor compliance.

Recommended starting dose is 70 grams per day based on the Cuban trial, which showed a favorable response in 40 percent of cases.

Effective vs tumors

Doctors William Lane and Linda Comac, who have also done extensive research on shark cartilage, report in their book that shark cartilage may be effective against the fast-growing, highly vascularized tumors, such as those in the breast, cervix, lungs and liver.

It has also been shown beneficial in advanced prostate tumors and it dramatically lowers the PSA value, which is the prostate tumor indicator, within 12 to 16 weeks.

Shark cartilage has been shown beneficial as a complementary cancer therapy that clinical trials in humans conducted under the auspices of the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) have been allowed. The FDA only allows such clinical trials on humans if there are already compelling scientific evidence of the drug's clinical benefits.

In his report, Harvard-trained cancer surgeon Dr. John Prudden said shark cartilage was administered on 31 cancer patients on whom standard radiation and chemotherapy were no longer deemed appropriate. In this report, tumor regression was noted in 11 of the 31 cases, or 35 percent.

High dose

In the much-publicized Cuban trial that included the world-renowned pathologist Prof. Fernandez Britto in the research team, 29 terminal cancer patients were given shark cartilage at a high dose of 70 grams per day for 16 weeks and then a continued maintenance dose of 20 grams per day. All cancers had been biopsy-confirmed. Fourteen of the 29 patients (48 percent) were reported to be completely well and still cancer-free after 34 months.

Dr. Britto presented serial "before-and-after" biopsy slides demonstrating the beneficial action of the shark cartilage stimulating the rapid growth of fibrin tissue replacing or encapsulating the cancer cells.

Despite the reports on the beneficial effects of shark cartilage on cancer, many specialists emphasize that it should only be considered an adjunct to conventional treatments or when these treatments are no longer considered suitable because the patient cannot tolerate their adverse effects. Its local distributors promote it more as a supplement to help prevent cancer in cancer-prone individuals and not for therapeutic purposes.

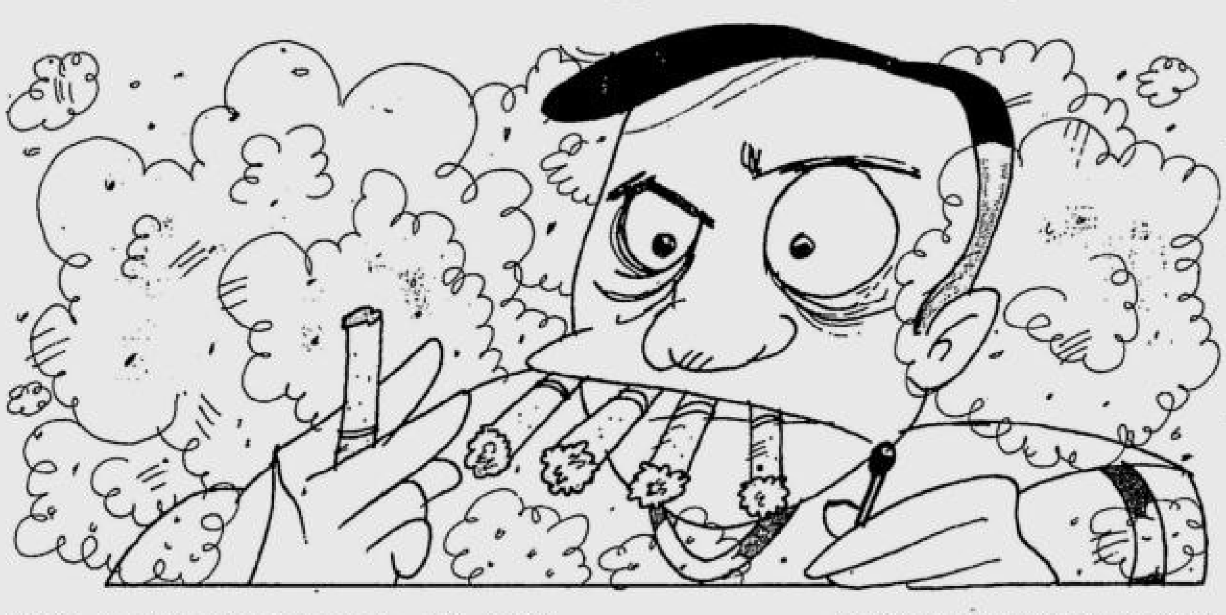
Cancer therapy

Patients taking it for cancer therapy are reminded that only 30 to 40 percent will respond—meaning only 3 to 4 out of 10 patients will experience significant improvement. The second limitation is that in the clinical trials using shark cartilage for cancer therapy, big doses (60-80 grams per day) have been used—meaning that patients will have to take 75 to 100 capsules daily. Although many cancer patients with extensive disease are willing to try this alternative treatment at the recommended high dose, it is considered cumbersome which limits patient compliance.

Trianon shark cartilage, which is co-marketed in the Philippines by Trianon International and Healthline Systems, is now available at Mercury Drug stores. The stock dose is 750 milligram or 0.75 gram per capsule. Some doctors are prescribing this natural product as an adjunctive food supplement to help prevent cancer in those with strong family histories of cancer, particularly smokers and those constantly exposed to polluted environments. Recommended dose for cancer prevention is two to three capsules daily.

The case of the smoking chimney

BY RAFAEL
R. CASTILLO, M.D.



ED worked his way to the top of a big multinational pharmaceutical company. He regularly worked long hours, even longer when his company's sales fell short of the usually ambitious targets their European-based head office had set. His meetings with his managers would sometimes last until midnight and to keep himself awake he smoked like a chimney, consuming no less than two packs daily.

Since about seven years ago, Ed started having cough that was usually prominent in the morning upon waking up. He had taken numerous cough remedies and even strong antibiotics for this. He dismissed it as a "normal" smoker's cough.

His doctor, of course, tried to correct him that it was not normal. Still, the smoking chimney that he was remained unabated.

Ed also started to have what he termed as "chest colds" wherein his sputum turned yellowish or greenish. As the years went by, these chest colds became more frequent and were sometimes accompanied by wheezing. Ed also noted that he was experiencing shortness of breath on effort which was progressively getting worse.

Forced to retire

At age 55, the smoking chimney was losing steam, preventing him from keeping pace with his workaholic nature. He was in and out of the hospital for recurrent exacerbation of his lung condition.

After 35 productive years in the pharmaceutical industry that saw him rise from the ranks to the top, Ed made the painful decision to retire.

"You have chronic obstructive pulmonary disease or COPD," Ed's doctor told him.

He explained that COPD is a persistent obstruction of the lung airways caused by emphysema or chronic bronchitis.

Emphysema is the dilatation and subsequent destruction of the alveoli that are the tiny air sacs of the lungs. Chronic bronchitis is a persistent chronic cough that produces sputum due to inflammation of the bronchial glands of the lungs causing excess secretion of mucus. There is progressive scarring of the walls of the small lung airways, swelling of their lining, and partial obstruction of the airway passages due to the accumulating mucus secretion and spasm of the smooth muscles of the airways.

Disability and death

COPD is one of the leading causes of disability and death. Majority of COPD deaths occurs in people over age 55. It affects men more frequently than women.

Although longstanding exposure to various chemical fumes, pollution and dust may increase the risk of COPD, smoking remains the most frequent and significant risk factor. Not only does smoking damage the connective tissue in the walls of the alveoli, it also impairs the lung's defenses by damaging the ciliary network which are the tiny hairlike cells lining the airways that normally carry mucus toward the mouth and help expel toxic substances.

MEDICAL FILES

"But why do I have shortness of breath, doc?" Ed asked.

"All forms of COPD cause air to become trapped in the lungs and the number of capillaries in the walls of the alveoli decreases," the doctor explained. "These abnormalities impair the exchange of oxygen and carbon dioxide between the alveoli and the blood. Early on, blood oxygen levels are decreased but carbon dioxide levels remain normal. Later on, carbon dioxide can no longer be blown out effectively by the lungs and its level increases while the blood oxygen level falls even further."

"How about the swelling of my feet, doc?"

"The swelling of the legs, or pedal edema, may be due to the involvement of the right side of the heart, which takes the brunt of the increased pressure in the lungs. This is called Cor Pulmonale and when the right ventricle of the heart fails, it manifests as swelling of the legs and enlargement of the abdomen in later stages," the doctor explained, using the heart-lung model on his desk.

Severe obstruction

A spirometer test was performed on Ed where he was asked to exhale vigorously and as quickly as possible through a tubing after inhaling deeply. The recording device of the spirometer measured the volume of air inhaled and exhaled, including the length of time each breath took.

The test demonstrated marked reduction in airflow during forceful exhalation, indicating severe airflow obstruction.

"It's not the end of the world, is it, doc?"

The doctor paused for a while before answering. "Well, frankly Ed, your condition needs serious attention but it's not exactly the end of everything."

The doctor then outlined the main points in the treatment of Ed's condition.

No more smoking

First and foremost, the smoking has to go. Even in late stages of COPD, quitting smoking provides some benefits. The doctor prescribed Zyban for seven weeks to help Ed kick the habit.

Avoiding exposure to all airborne irritants is also a must. "Your decision to retire in your farm in the province may be a good idea," the doctor said.

Since contracting influenza or pneumonia may cause life-threatening exacerbation of COPD, the doctor also advised influenza and pneumococcal vaccinations.

For the reversible elements of the airway obstruction, which include the airway muscle spasm, inflammation and increased mucus secretion, Ed was given bronchodilators and inhaled steroids. Although there's no real effective way to thin out the secretions, mucolytics may help in addition to increased fluid intake since dehydration may cause thickened secretions. Respiratory physiotherapy, which includes postural drainage, suctioning, breathing exercises and pursed-lip breathing also helps loosen the secretions.

Flare-ups or acute exacerbation of COPD generally result from superimposed bacterial infections, which can be treated with a 7- to 10-day course of antibiotics.

Long-term oxygen therapy may also improve the outcome and prolong the lives of patients with severe COPD. Although continuous or round-the-clock therapy is recommended, a 12-hour daily administration, particularly when the patient is sleeping, also brings some benefit. Oxygen therapy alleviates the low blood oxygen levels and improves the patient's mental functioning, helps those with right-sided heart failure, and allows the COPD patient to perform light exercises and activities of daily living.

Ed was also started on an exercise program consisting of stationary bicycling, walking, light calisthenics and dumb-bell exercises. The aim was to improve his independence and quality of life although lung function was not expected to improve. Often, he required oxygen inhalation during exercise.

Prognosis

"What are my long-term chances, doc?" Ed asked.

"The long-term prognosis, or outlook for patients with mild COPD is favorable. However, with moderate or severe airway obstruction as in your case, the prognosis becomes progressively worse. About 30 percent of severe COPD cases die within one year; 95 percent die in 10 years. Death may result from pneumonia, leakage of air in the lung cavity (pneumothorax), heart rhythm abnormalities (arrhythmias), or blockage of arteries in the lungs (pulmonary embolism). COPD patients also have an increased risk of developing lung cancer."

"But," the doctor continued, "there's always a ray of hope. Some cases of severe COPD have been reported to survive 15 years or more."

Ed is now back in the small sleepy town of his birth—a town he left many years ago to pursue his big dreams in the big city, a town he now came back to put his dreams to rest. He realizes that such is the cycle of life. And he has just gone full circle.

(Medical Files is based on the case histories of actual patients. Some data have been changed to cover the identity of the patient. Dr. Castillo is a past president of the Philippine Heart Association/ Philippine College of Cardiology. Please send comments or questions to Room 601, Medical Arts Center, Manila Doctors Hospital, T.M. Kalaw, Ermita, Manila or e-mail rrc@i-manila.com.ph)

Still on the Big Bang, plus Heron's formula

BY QUEENA N. LEE-CHUA

I AM utterly amazed that my quite technical column on the origin and evolution of the universe (PDI, 10/14/00) has been eliciting many responses from readers. E. Evangelista [alisevan@edsamail.com.ph] has written twice, and here is his third query.

Hi! Here I am again! I am still bothered by these ideas and just can't help myself. Your previous explanation fits perfectly in the present universe. But according to some cosmologists, during the initial moment of inflation, the expansion of the universe was millions and millions of times the speed of light as mentioned in the book "The Search for Infinity" by Gordon Fraser and others. The October 1999 issue of National Geographic Magazine mentioned in the article "Unveiling the Universe" that "by the age of one second, the universe had expanded and thinned to 20 light years." We know very well that the speed of light is about 300,000 km/sec. This is the reason I mentioned that the principles of the general theory of relativity do not apply here because if they did, there is no way for the universe to reach a diameter of 20 light years in one second!

There is another paradox that always lingers in my mind. Suppose there is an observer, 15 billion light years to our left, and another observer, 15 billion light years to our right. Their distance from one another is 30 billion light years, but the age of the universe may not be more than 20 billion years. So from this scenario, we can infer that there is no way for them to communicate with each other. Both of them do not exist relative to each other, but to us, both of them do exist. What about the parts of the universe 15 billion light years to the right of our right observer and to the left of our left observer?

I am already exhausted just thinking of these! I look forward to your explanation regarding this matter.

I have decided to refer your questions to Fr. Daniel McNamara, the director of the Manila Observatory and an astute Jesuit physicist who is knowledgeable in cosmology, among others. Here is Father Dan's reply:

According to the inflation theory, there was a period in the early Big Bang when space-time expanded exponentially fast in time, and it does say that the expansion was faster than the speed of light. But this does not violate general relativity. We are talking here of the speed of the expansion of space-time itself (along whose geodesics light travels) and nothing dictates the rate at which this (the space-time manifold) happens. General relativity speaks of the speed of light—a phenomenon INSIDE space-time. Space-time itself enters general relativity as that which interacts with matter/energy AFTER the initial conditions are given. What the cosmic background radiation has discovered is those initial conditions. Given those, general relativity then says nothing material can move faster than light and no information can be propagated faster than that.

As for the paradox, you seem to be thinking of the many-universe theory. The answer is yes—an observer cannot communicate with another outside his/her light cone—IF there is someone there. In the many-universe theory there could be but precisely for the reason he states, we could never know about it. So these many universes are parallel to ours, meaning that we cannot ever know about them. I find such things/theories more science fiction than not, as by definition they are nonverifiable or refutable. Therefore, are they science?

* * *

M. Esposo [mykelmatrix(@hotmail.com] asks the following:

Like several others, I am also an enthusiast who encountered questions in my reading of scientific reports. I could not understand their answer. For instance, if the Big Bang sounded the birth of the universe, by the sudden and violent explosion of a very dense integration of energy and matter the size of a point, and that explosion kept on spreading or expanding up to this time, how then could the cosmic soup of dispersed matter become lumpy and accumulate to form stars and galaxies? Spreading or expanding means the mounting distances between the particles of matter and weakening of the gravitational attraction between them.

I had the same question the first time I learned about the Big Bang. The simplest answer to your query would be: phase change and freezing. Remember also that matter and energy are two sides of the same coin, so we should not really be surprised that "matter" can originate from a point of infinite energy. As for the lumps, according to the inflationary model of the universe, phase transitions such as rapid cooling took place in the very early stages, and these were responsible for the formation of protons, then nuclei, and so forth, up to the planets and stars we know today. An excellent book to consult on this matter is Steven Weinberg's "The First Three Minutes."

* * *

Let us now look at something more down-to-earth. Here's a query from L. Jordan, Box 22, Roxas City:

My friend Atty. A. Viterbo Jr. tells me that one can find the area of a triangle given the lengths of each side. Is he right?

Yes, he is. The Greek mathematician Heron of Alexandria (c. 100 AD) wrote on geometry and mechanics. His most famous work is the "Metrica," which deals with the solutions of equations and measurement of figures. It includes Heron's formula to find the area of a triangle in terms of its sides: If A is area, s is perimeter, and a, b and c are the lengths of the triangle's sides, then $A = \sqrt{s}\,(s - a)(s - b)(s - c)$. Elegant, isn't it? Aside from abstract math, Heron was also a practical man—he developed a primitive steam engine and a fountain where a jet of water works through compressed air.

* * *

Send your queries to me c/o Ateneo de Manila University, Math Department, Loyola Heights, Quezon City. Or e-mail me at queena@mathsci.math.admu.edu.ph.

Watch your mouth, says dentist

A LARGE number of the population is affected by gingivitis, a gum disease that could lead to teeth fallout if not given attention in its early stages. A bleeding gum is an obvious symptom of gingivitis. Gingivitis is a universal disease. It can strike anyone; rich or poor, professional or not, there is one common denominator—maintenance of oral hygiene—so I guess, it is not the money anymore but awareness," says Dr. Henry G. Uy, past president of the Philippine Dental Association.

It is a fact that Filipinos are afraid to see a dentist for a checkup. It seems that the primary deterrent is the cost of a dental checkup. Due to financial constraints, they are reluctant to visit a dentist at least twice a year. Says Dr. Uy: "Patients, especially belonging to the CDE market will not visit a dentist unless they have a severe toothache. To them, a toothache is just a secondary problem that they would rather spend the money on necessities like food."

Dr. Uy also says that gingivitis can be prevented through proper dental hygiene like regular brushing of the teeth after every meal usually for about 5 minutes and giving 10 strokes for every tooth. Use the brushing, sweeping and rolling technique. For children, he recommends that they minimize eating sweets and use a straw every time they take soft drinks so that it can go directly to their throat and do not touch their teeth.

Using an oral antiseptic like Betadine Gargle after brushing the teeth helps eliminate bacteria in the mouth. Dr. Uy attests to the efficacy of the said gargle in killing bacteria in the mouth. In his daily clinical practice, he asks his patients to gargle before he extracts or cleans their teeth. In fact, he recommends said gargle to all his patients as their oral antiseptic.

Dr. Uy also advises the following simple and inexpensive helpful tips to maintain clean and healthy teeth:

- Use soft bristles because hard ones will damage the enamel of the teeth resulting to sensitive teeth, thus, affecting the gums.
- Brush the dorsal or top part of the tongue where bacteria can hide. Even the tuberculosis bacteria can hide in the fissures of the tongue.
- Make it a habit to gargle after brushing to keep bacteria away and keep breath fresh always.

Betadine Gargle is manufactured by Pascual Laboratories Inc. under license from Mundipharma B.V./The Netherlands. It is available at all drugstores and supermarkets nationwide.

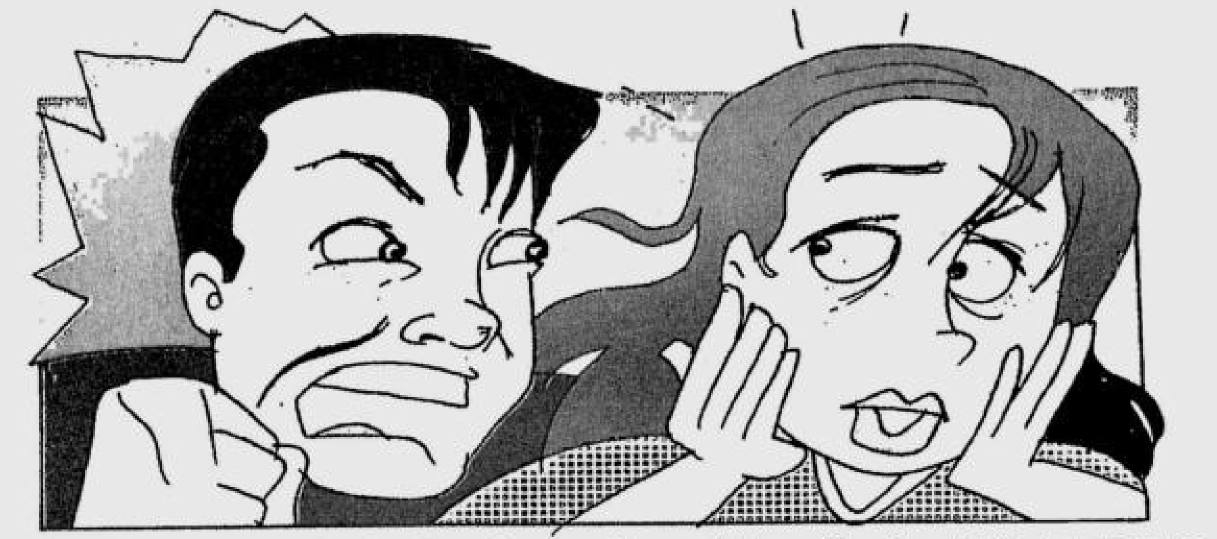
SCIENCE /HEALTH

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor ■ STELLA O. GONZALES, Assistant Editor

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Men left out in intervention programs

BY TESSA RELAMPAGOS SALAZAR



A PREGNANT woman died when her husband threw a clothes chest (*baul*) at her. A man poked a gun at his wife during a heated argument. Another woman, already badly bruised, was threatened with a bladed weapon while arguing with her partner.

Severe physical abuse has often resulted in deaths, illnesses and disabilities.

Health researchers tracking such cases in three Metro Manila poor communities in 1992, found out that 11 of every 12 women had been physically beaten. In three mining communities in Baguio, half of the women surveyed disclosed that they were victims of domestic violence.

Romeo B. Lee, Ph.D., one of the authors of the book "Filipino Men and Domestic Violence," said that despite the overwhelming incidence of male-led violence, the male factor of violence has been overlooked.

"If Filipino men are at the heart of domestic violence, why are they excluded in programs?" Lee asked in an interview.

Lee and his team have conducted studies, intervention procedures and workshops for 96 men in Davao and Iloilo and plan to conduct more workshops in the country.

Lee's team wishes to address the fact that no program on domestic violence in the Philippines ever focused on men.

"All domestic violence interventions in the country have been centering on women and children and the elderly. The men, who are mostly sources of violence, have been left out. It is in this respect that we began working on Filipino men," he said.

Some findings of Lee and his team:

- All family men want harmonious relationships in their families.
- Many men still hold the traditional gender role of being symbols of strength, authority and power in the family.
- Most men claimed to have experienced domestic violence in their own families but their ideas of what is violence tend to be restricted to the physical aspect. They do not think that giving the cold shoulder when spoken to by their spouses, or cursing are also forms of violence.
- Contrary to popular opinion, men feel remorse, guilt and shame for their violent acts and are aware of the ill consequences of their actions.
- Most men feel violent behavior can be changed and many have expressed willingness to change.

The team also found out that men's "specific and inappropriate knowledge of domestic violence" could be modified, but not all could be done in a short time, said Lee. He also said that men's values and beliefs are much more complex than their knowledge.

Other findings of Lee's team include:

- Men were able to develop skills on managing anger, communicating, and empathizing. Not all however readily manifested these skills.
- Before anything could be changed, men need to modify their self-perception and their perceptions of women.
- The same group of men should be given the same three workshops on knowledge, values and beliefs, and skills.

This scheme, Lee asserted, makes it possible for men to go through behavioral change because knowledge, values and beliefs and skills have a cumulative impact.

Lee described men as generally not able to know how to express anger, that they always end up ventilating it on someone else.

"The male society has not taught us how to express our anger. This is a global problem. When they need to be sad or to cry they could not cry. Thus, they readily ventilate it through physical aggression," Lee said.

A confusing combination of "nature" and "nurture" could also result in a man's inability to express. So while men socialize, Lee said, their hormones predispose them to aggression.

Asked if the health arms of the government expressed interest in his project, Lee replied that the Department of Social Welfare and Development and other non-government organizations have given the project some degree of attention.

Lee stressed that many organizations have begun to realize the need to focus on men as the heart and source of domestic violence.

The Iloilo and Davao project was conceptualized in 1998 and implemented until September last year.

Asked why his team chose Iloilo and Davao, Lee answered that there were already existing intervention programs in the two cities.

Lee is from the De La Salle University in Manila. Other collaborators of the project are Fely David of the Central Philippine University (Iloilo) and Dr. Camilo Naraval of the Health Management Group (Davao). The authors are active researchers in reproductive health, including domestic violence.

Hormone holding key to diabetes found

BALTIMORE—Scientists have discovered a hormone that may explain the link between diabetes and obesity, a tantalizing finding that could someday lead to new treatments for the disease.

The hormone, called resistin, is produced by fat cells and prompts tissues to resist insulin, the substance the body needs to process blood sugar, researchers reported in the Dec. 18 issue of the journal Nature.

Diabetics produce too little insulin or cannot use it efficiently.

Blockbuster paper

"I don't think it's an exaggeration to say this is a blockbuster paper with potentially major clinical impact," said Dr. Allen Spiegel, director of the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, a division of the National Institutes of Health, which funded the research.

Obesity is one of the biggest risk factors for Type II, or adult-onset, diabetes. The adult-onset form of the disease accounts for more than 90 percent of all cases of diabetes.

University of Pennsylvania scientists identified resistin in mice and found genetic evidence that the same hormone exists in humans, though they have yet to isolate it.

Mice given resistin were not able to process blood sugar as well as those that were not given the hormone. And mice given a drug that lowers resistin levels were better able to process blood sugar and use insulin.

Major cause

Adult-onset diabetes is blamed on obesity, aging and a sedentary lifestyle. It is a major cause of blindness, kidney disease, amputations and death.

While synthetic insulin is often used to treat diabetes, researcher Mitchell A. Lazar compared its use to talking louder to deal with a poor telephone connection rather than fixing the line.

A new class of drugs called TZDs that make the body use insulin more effectively prompted the researchers to search for the hormone. The researchers hypothesized that the drug might be targeting a hormone. They looked at which genes were activated or deactivated by the TZD. From there, they zeroed in on the hormone.

"It was kind of like panning for gold," said Lazar, director of the university's Diabetes Center. "When you compared what was turned on and off in both of the cells you were left with those few nuggets."

Why the cells make resistin is not known, but it may be related to helping the body deal with periods of famine, Lazar said.

Part of missing link

Resistin "may form at least part of the missing link between obesity and diabetes," Jeffrey S. Flier of the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston said in an accompanying editorial.

The exact role of the hormone, however, is not known, and how differences in the ability to produce the hormone affecting diabetes needs to be determined, Flier said.

Morris White, a researcher at the Joslin Diabetes Center at Harvard Medical School, cautioned that the finding is intriguing, but the connection had not been proved.

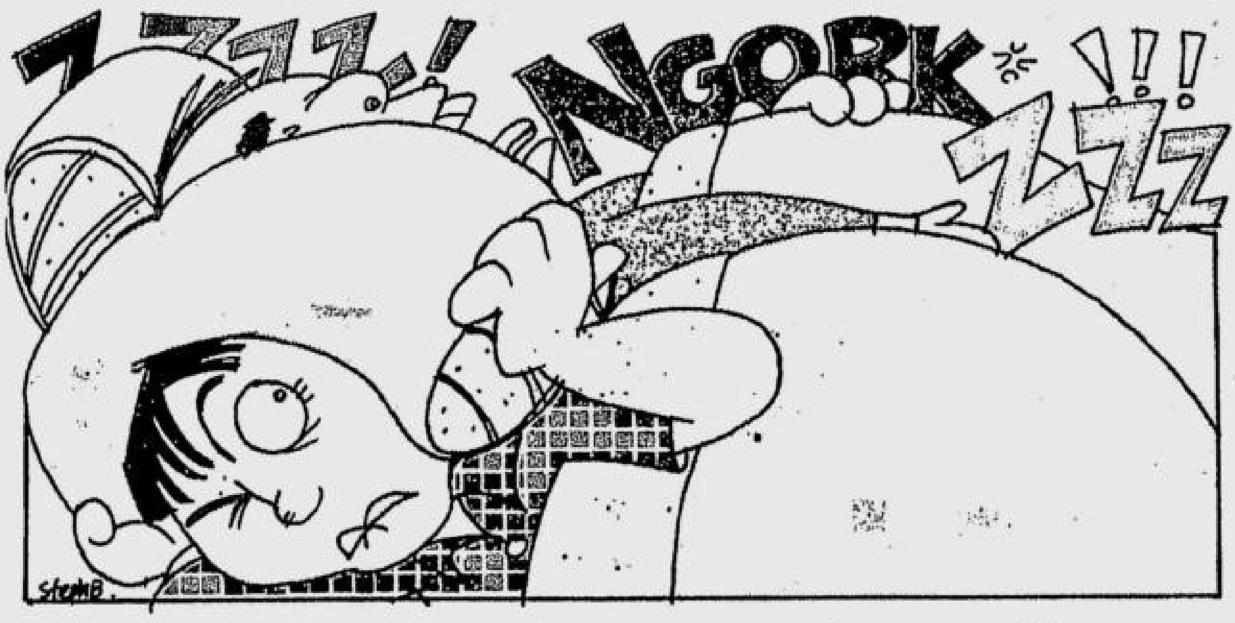
"This is sort of circumstantial evidence that, yes, this is a hormone and it has a function," White said. "There's no proof it's actually working at the liver or at the fat cell or the muscle cell to change the blood glucose. You don't really know how it works."

If resistin is a key player, it could allow for more specifically targeted drugs, said Ed Leiter, a diabetes researcher at Jackson Laboratories in Bar Harbor, Maine, who was not involved in the research.

"If you can find drugs that primarily block the resistin gene from turning on, or expressing, you can tailor your drug," Leiter said. TZDs have a more scattershot approach, he said.

Leiter compared the work to the 1994 discovery of leptin, a hormone also made by fat cells that helps the brain control eating. Leptin has prompted research into eating disorders, obesity and diabetes.

"There's going to be a lot of papers coming out of this," Leiter said. "It's going to stimulate the field in the same way leptin did. It looks to be very important." *AP*



Snoring could signal serious ailment

SNORING is not normal and could even be a sign of a serious disorder called sleep apnea that may cause considerable health risks, like heart problems, stroke, and hypertension.

Contrary to popular belief that it is a sign that one is getting a good night's sleep, snoring could even be life threatening, said Dr. Ruth Divinagracia, one of the country's leading pulmonologist who specializes in sleep medicine.

Obstructive sleep apnea occurs when muscles relax too much and there is a total block of airflow in and out of the lungs during sleep.

The most common sign of the disorder is nightly snoring, interrupted by pauses in breathing. People suffering from sleep apnea struggle to breathe again and again, making restful sleep impossible and affecting the person's daytime alertness and functioning, Divinagracia said.

Snoring occurs when the soft palate (a membrane located at the back of the mouth) and uvula (the small, fingerlike part hanging from the back part of the roof of the mouth) block airflow during sleep when the muscles in the mouth, throat and neck relax.

The snoring sound is due to the vibration of tissues as air squeezes its way through the throat.

Because the thickness of the soft palate increases with age and is larger in men, majority of those who snore are male and over 50 years old.

Divinagracia stressed that not all those who snore have sleep apnea. Only about 40 to 60 percent of them have the disorder.

Diagnosing sleep apnea

"The first step toward the crucial diagnosis usually comes from the person's bed partner. If your bed partner has sleep apnea, you would notice that they have gasping respiration. If you listen while they sleep, you will hear snoring followed by a period of silence, and then a loud snort or gasp as they start breathing again," she said.

A sufferer will know if he is afflicted with the disorder if there is Excessive Daytime Somnolence or EDS.

"Patients with sleep apnea have sleep that is very fragmented because the breathing stops and the oxygen level in the body goes down. The brain senses this and wakes the patient up," Divinagracia said.

"The body's own defense against suffocation is to restart the snoring mechanism. This could happen hundreds of times a night, without the patient even knowing it. Sleep apnea sufferers never go into REM (rapid eye movement) sleep, or the deepest kind of sleep wherein we dream, so they feel very tired the next day," she added.

Sleepiness

The fragmented sleep of patients results to irregularity in the person's performance during the day. It has been shown in the United States that many fatal accidents have been attributed to sleep apnea.

A sleep apnea sufferer behind a wheel is very dangerous because he tends to have an uncontrollable urge to sleep anytime, anywhere. It is for this reason that elsewhere around the world, people diagnosed with sleep apnea are not given a license to drive unless they get treatment.

Other common symptoms of the disorder are loss of energy, fatigue, restless sleep, high blood pressure, neck size greater than 17 inches in men and 16 inches in women, overweight, trouble concentrating, irritability, morning headaches, forgetfulness, and sexual dysfunction.

Treatment

Divinagracia said one possible treatment for sleep apnea is the use of CPAP, or Continuous Positive Airway Pressure. This treatment is available at the Makati Medical Center and St. Luke's Medical Center.

"We have a sleep laboratory in which the patient will be monitored during his sleep. This requires an overnight stay in the laboratory," she said.

CPAP involves the nightly use of a mask strapped over the nose. A tube connects the mask to a machine that delivers a small amount of air pressure while the patient sleeps. The pressurized air prevents the airway from collapsing and allows the air to flow freely in the lungs.

Another possible treatment is a surgical procedure for mild to moderate apnea called uvulopalatopharyngoplasty (UPP). The tonsils are removed and the soft palate and uvula trimmed. This has been the standard operation for sleep apnea for about 20 years. However, it has shown inconsistent results, with a small percentage of patients responding beautifully while many respond only partially and sometimes none at all.

Medication of any kind, according to Divinagracia, is not highly recommended and might only worsen the situation.

"There's no magic pill to take care of it. One should take medication with caution, specially sleeping pills because they depress breathing and can make sleep apnea worse. Even common cold medicines can have this effect," she said.

The best preventive methods against sleep apnea without medical procedures could be weight loss. Studies show that although sleep apnea is genetic, almost 75 percent of sufferers are overweight.

Making the patient sleep on his side also helps.

Hepa B, a silent killer

BY MONA P. VENZON, M.D.

MANNY Enriquez is a computer technologist who dreams of working in a computer company abroad and earning the income he has long been dreaming of. But before he could make his dream into a reality, a virus turned his life into a nightmare. His departure was thwarted after a medical examination revealed he had a severely damaged liver that is caused by hepatitis B.

Manny is just one of countless Filipinos who found out too late that they have this devious virus. And this can indeed happen to anyone because hepatitis B affects one out of every 10 Filipinos. What is tricky is that many times, this virus does not even give clues that it is in your body.

In the Philippines, hepatitis B—a virus that hits the liver—is usually acquired at birth from infected mothers or through child-to-child transmission. A staggering 95 percent of these babies grow up with the virus staying in their bodies for a long time, without them knowing it. It may later on lead to liver cirrhosis (severe scarring) or liver cancer. Its ability to hide itself is what makes hepatitis B a silent killer.

Even though this is how hepatitis B attacks, the means to detect the virus is very much available for everyone. A simple blood test from your doctor could very well be the first step in beating the disease before it beats you. Your doctor may then start you on a treatment depending on your condition. Medicines have been developed that could stop the virus from further destroying the liver, specially if given early enough.

"Now, I'm taking medicines to help me, and somehow, I still have some hope left because at least, there's something I can do about it. But if only I could turn back time, I would have myself screened earlier. And maybe I could have gotten some help before it got worse," Manny said.

Those who want to avail of discounted screening in accredited laboratories and for more information about hepatitis B, please call the HOPE (Hope for Hepatitis B Sufferers) hotline at 815-0296 or 1800-1888-4673. For companies, organizations and associations, HOPE offers on-site P100 screening for groups of at least 50.

Telemedicine now available for Filipinos

BY TINA ARCEO-DUMLAO

ACROSS the globe, one of the leading causes of death is misdiagnosis. An overwhelming number of patients spend a lot of money for operations they did not need and medicine that did not cure their ills.

These resulted in senseless deaths even in advanced countries like the United States and the United Kingdom. Misdiagnosis and medical mistakes, in fact, have become the 8th leading cause of death there.

The number is probably higher in the Philippines with its less sophisticated equipment and lower levels of research.

One of the easiest ways to check against medical mistakes is to seek a second opinion.

With the latest developments in communications technology, Filipinos now have access to a second opinion not just from Filipino doctors but from medical specialists abroad through telemedicine.

Telemedicine refers to the delivery of the best medical care to millions of patients by combining communications technology with medical expertise. Patients no longer have to spend huge amounts to go to the United States to have simple laboratory tests or to interpret their medical history.

Medicine via computer

From a computer, patients here can communicate face to face with doctors abroad. They can send their laboratory and X-ray results via modem and get a second opinion within two to four days.

The benefits of telemedicine prompted the University of California Medical Center at San Francisco and the SHR Group to enter into a joint venture to establish an international subscriber base for telemedicine services.

SHR formed Second Opinion Ltd. to expand the telemedicine subscriber base.

The intention was to reach within a short time millions of families who will subscribe to the service that will make them eligible to seek a second medical opinion from senior physicians from top hospitals.

Telemedicine can be applied to radiology (like MRI, CT Scan, ultrasound and mammography), pathology (histology and cytology consultations), cardiology and other medical specializations such as surgery and psychiatry.

Second Opinion also offers a facility where the local physician can discuss the findings with an American specialist in case the findings differ.

There are now over 10 million members who have subscribed to the Second Opinion network covering 12 countries including the Philippines.

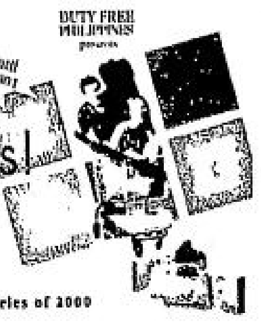
Preneed firm PET Plans Inc. said it would offer Second Opinion membership to its plan holders as a value-added product to the pre-need plans.

"We feel that it is an innovative product and it will be beneficial to our plan holders because they will have access to the best medical services from abroad, not just here. It should be good for people who are told that they will require surgery or treatments such as chemotherapy," PET Plans president Adrian V. Ocampo said.

Margarita Duya, Second Opinion Phils. marketing officer, said that many Filipinos have already tried the benefits of telemedicine and the impact of having a second opinion from specialists abroad.

"With Second Opinion, we hope to provide the best medical attention at the lowest possible cost," Duya said.

Telemedicine promises quick and efficient diagnosis, constant contact with medical experts in any discipline and increase the viability of running remote and rural health care centers.



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Julia Stiles juggles college life and movie roles

STILES. Classmates treat her like a normal human being. AP

By Christy Lemire

NEW YORK—Julia Stiles can look and sound like a typical college freshman, lounging on the couch in hiking boots, dark jeans and a comfy, charcoal gray wool sweater. She plays with her stick-straight blond hair and talks about being undecided on a major.

She's far from your average university student, though.

Latest film

When she's not studying at Columbia University, the 19-year-old actress is making movies. She appears in David Mamet's latest film, "State and Main," in theaters now. Next month, she'll jet to Paris to start shooting "The Bourne Identity" with Matt Damon.

And this month she'll squeeze in a sojourn to the Sundance Film Festival "in between writing papers."

"But it's cool," she says during an interview. "I'm happy that I get to have both experiences."

Her latest experience is trying out her moves in the film "Save the Last Dance," sort of a cross between "Dirty Dancing" and "Jungle Fever," which opened Friday last week.

Stiles, who's taken dance lessons for most of her life, plays Sara, a middle-class ballerina who transfers to an inner-city Chicago high school and falls in love with Derek, a hip-hop dancer played by Sean Patrick Thomas. Friends and family on both sides disapprove of their interracial relationship.

While Stiles believes people are more open-minded than ever about interracial dating, she thinks a lot of the apparent acceptance is just talk.

Lip service

"I think people pay lip service: 'Oh, let's all just get along, everything's fine, there's no difference between black people and white people,'" she says. "But no matter what ... people are uncomfortable with what they're not familiar with and that culturally, there's a lot of differences."

Even so, her co-star, who grew up in Wilmington, Delaware, found that Stiles was more familiar with hip-hop music and street slang than he was.

"The dancing, the talk, everything," Thomas says. "She knew more than me in many ways because she's from New York."

Stiles grew up in downtown Manhattan and started acting onstage at age 11, performing in plays with the La Mama Theater troupe and the Kitchen Theater. Her first big film was 1997's "The Devil's Own," in which she played Harrison Ford's daughter. In 1999, she graduated from New York's Professional Children's School, which prepares students for careers in the arts.

Diversity in the student body is one of the things that attracted Stiles to Columbia. Just like the other freshmen, she lives in a dorm. Actress Anna Paquin lives a couple of buildings away.

Roommate

"It's cool!" Stiles says, a smile bursting across her face. "I really wanted to live in the dorm. That's part of the college experience that you have to have. I have a single and I'm glad about that because I couldn't deal with a roommate.

"But I come home and I have, like, 40 roommates if I open my door and it's just a different way of living. There's no privacy but it's OK. It's fun hanging out with people on my floor, walking around in flip-flops. I like it. It's like being away at camp."

Most people, she says, don't treat her like Julia Stiles, Movie Star.

"My friends, the people that I have met through my classes and who live on my floor, are awesome. They treat me like a normal human being," she says. "And I kinda went into the situation feeling, 'I'll command the way I am supposed to be treated, so if I act like I am—well, I AM a normal person—and I don't expect to be treated any differently, then hopefully people will respond that way.' And for the most part that happened.

"The coolest thing is that, like, my professors have no idea who I am. And if they do they haven't said anything, so they don't treat me differently. And they don't care. It's like, 'So, you're an actress. That's great. What do you know about Homer?'"

Whether or not she knows the Greek classics, Stiles knows Shakespeare. She starred in 1999's "10 Things I Hate About You," a high school version of "The Taming of The Shrew." Last year, she played Ophelia in Michael Almereyda's modern-day "Hamlet," which was re-released this month in New York and Los Angeles theaters. *AP*

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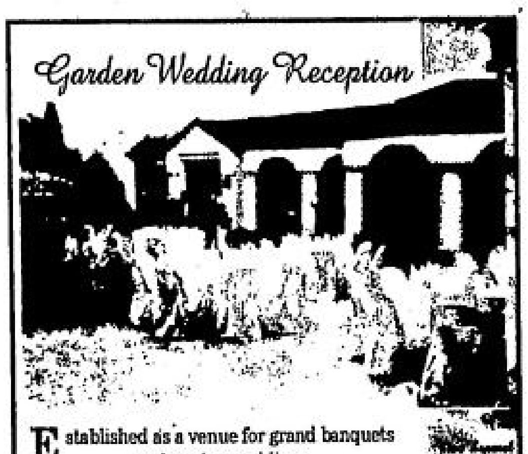

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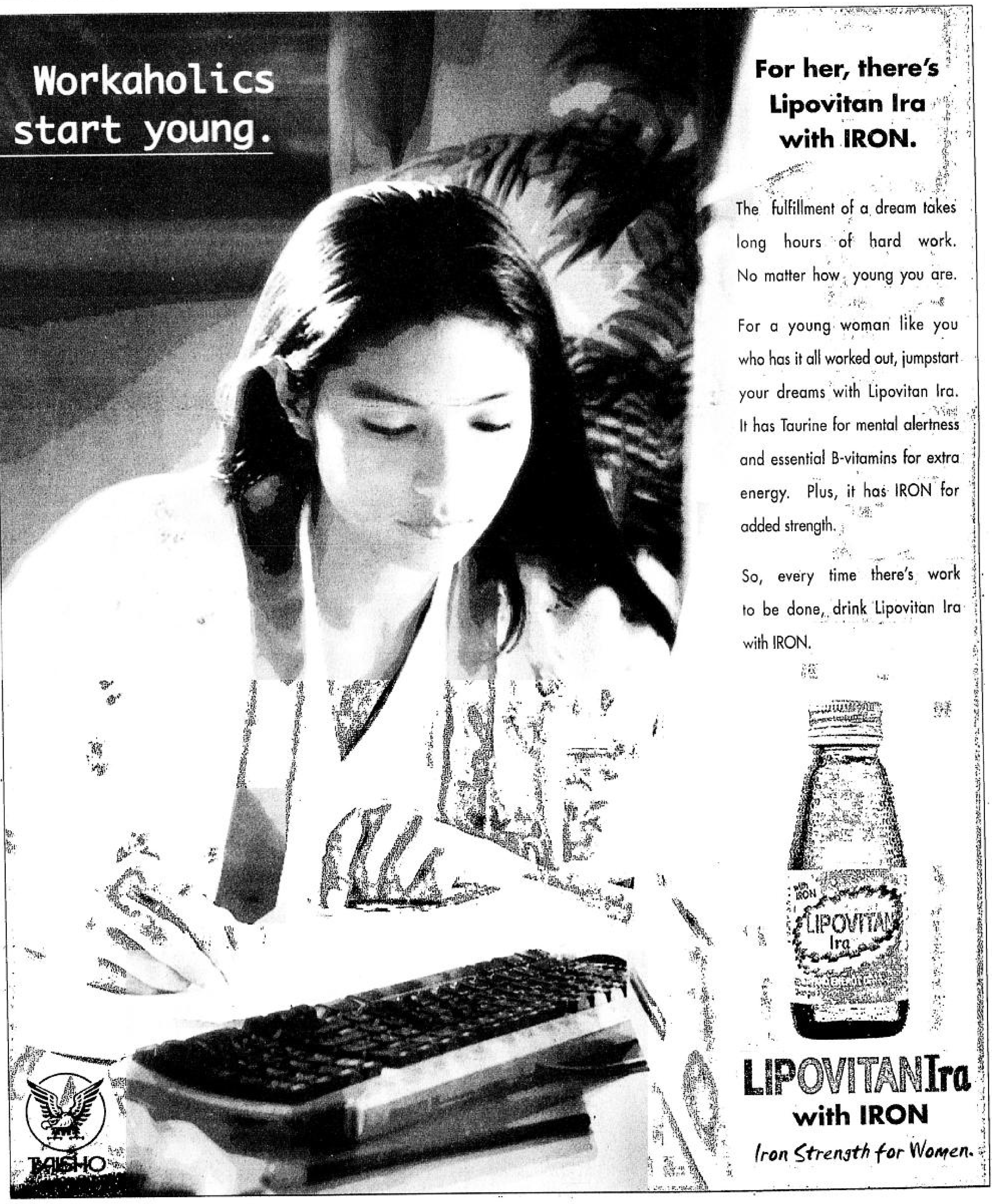
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LA SALLE COLISEUM, BACOLOD CITY
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Saturday, February 10, 2001, 8:00 p.m.
BURGOS GYM, ST. LOUIS UNIVERSITY,
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Rufa Mae Quinto, sexy comedienne

By Edmund L. Sicam

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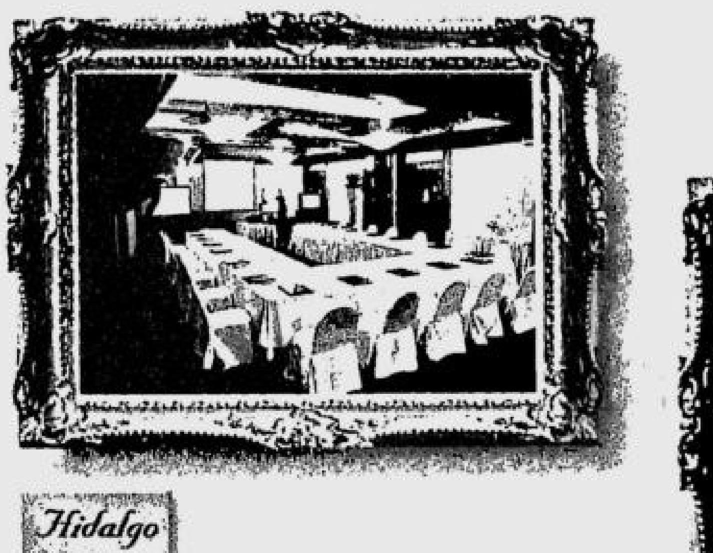

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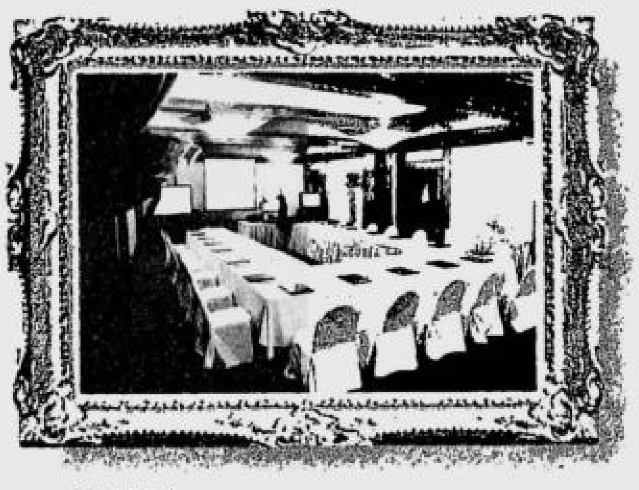

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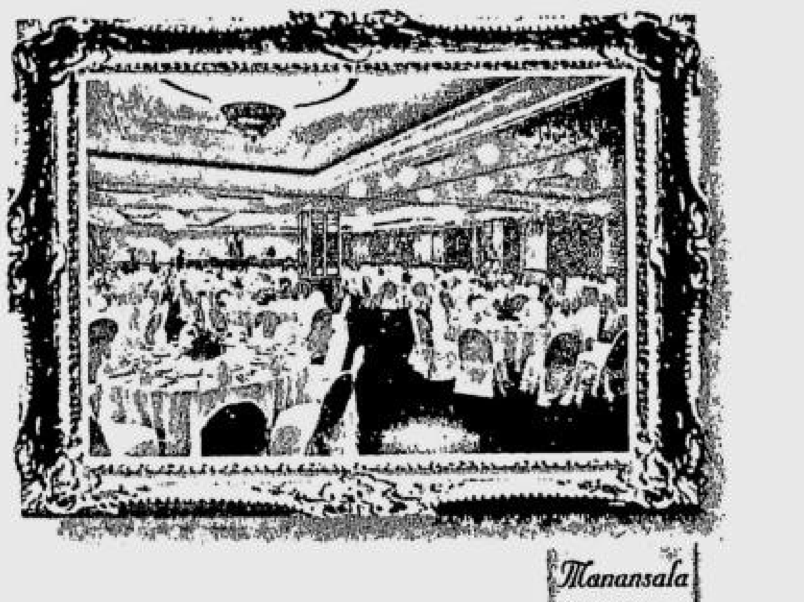

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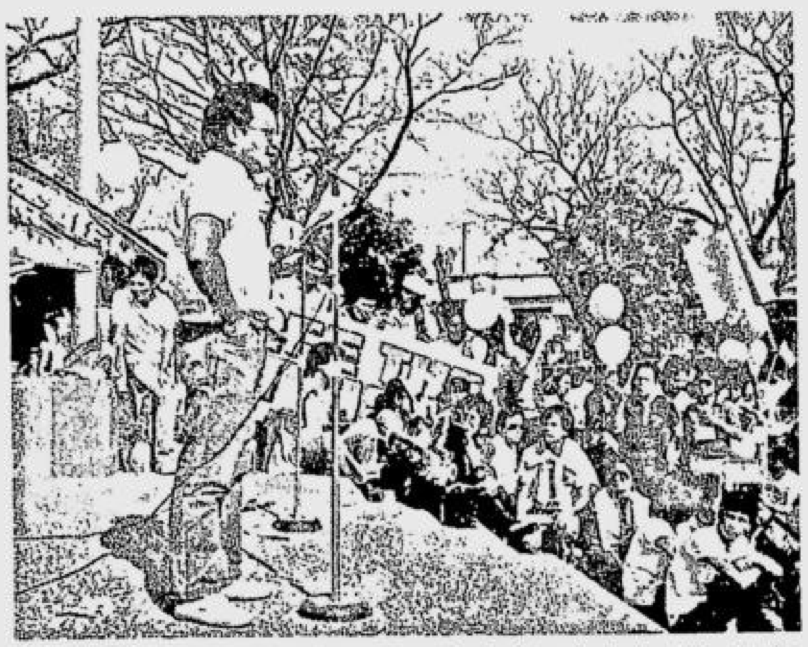
'Mga artista ng bayan' through the years



LINO Brocka (left) addressing a Free the Artist rally in the '80s. In the audience at right are the author, NUT and Eddie Romero.

By Behn Cervantes

(Conclusion)

UNFORTUNATELY, Joseph Estrada, despite having been included in the Famas Hall of Fame, has been a disappointing role model for *artistas* in public office. He clearly demonstrates how an actor can toy with the adulation of a people and abuse public trust.

Changes

As mayor of San Juan, he seemed to be doing well enough. He initiated projects that wrought changes, at least as far as the physical look of the city was concerned. However, even then there were already stories whispered by those close to city hall about his unconventional ways of running the city and gaining the loyalty of his people. Also, there were eyebrow-raising tales about the unorthodox and feudal manner with which he disciplined his police force.

Artistas of his ilk have demonstrated their ignorance of governance. However, they use their screen charm, reputation and flowery dialogue to win the people over to their side.

Besides, with so many *trapos* around for so long, *artistas* seemed like a breath of fresh air. If they represented a political risk, they were at least better-looking!

Political ambitions

Furthermore, major political parties blatantly exploited *artistas'* show biz charm by including them in their slates to win votes. With that formal political acceptance, too many *artistas* whose careers are on the decline now entertain political ambitions.

Despite the many Estradagates, there are still a number of truculent *artistas* who pursue ill-advised political ambitions. They are deaf to the growing clamor for much-needed change. They exploit the naivete of the masses, instead of helping raise their consciousness.

Sadly, many of these ill-prepared *artistas* are still going to get elected to political positions, and will be performing their official duties as though they were actors in a melodramatic *zarzuela*.

Indeed, the political arena has become more "show biz" through the years, with even *trapos* singing and dancing like eager contestants on noontime TV variety shows during their campaigns.

Artists have a duty to mirror truth and present alternative points of view, as well as brighter prospects for the future. They should use their craft to liberate the people from oppressive forces, be they social, political, cultural or economic.

Issues

With the opportunistic steps taken by these *artistas*, it behooves conscientized artists to educate the public on the issues. They must view the nation from the *masa's* perspective.

They should march against the status quo, no matter the career risks. Their role models are not the incompetent few who have given them a bad name. Instead, they should once more look to Juan and Maria de la Cruz. They must be one with the struggling masses.

If they listen to the loud cries of the Filipino people demanding immediate change, they will boldly join their fellow artists already in the streets.

They will use music, dance, poetry and painting to mirror social realities, thus aiding the people to see life as it is and how it should be once they empower themselves to initiate change.

Artists who realize that they are Filipinos first will follow the path of nationalist and liberating artists who have demonstrated the uplifting way to speak, write, and sing for the people. *Then*, they will be worthy of their noble craft.

New Voice presents expanded 'Vagina Monologues'

By Nestor U. Torre

MONIQUE Wilson is on a roll. Last year, her New Voice theater company's production of Eve Ensler's "The Vagina Monologues" sizzled at the Music Museum on its limited run.

Other production elements

This year, she's building on the success of that presentation by expanding both material and cast, adding other production elements, and beefing up the show's cast. from three to "more than 15 actresses from film, television and theater." The new version makes its debut at Music Museum on Jan. 26 and 27. (Call New Voice at 564-0384.)

We had a chance to meet some of the expanded version's cast members last week, and we posed this initial question to them: Given the "controversial" nature of the "verbally graphic" show, what doubts or fears did they have to master before agreeing to be a part of "The Vagina Monologues"? Some of the responses:

Cherie Gil: "I had heard about the show, and about its daring yet liberating nature. I knew that my doing the revue might send shock waves among my relatives, but I also knew that its cause, working in tandem with Gabriela's campaign to fight sex trafficking, was worth supporting. So, I accepted—without even reading the script.

Final monologue

"But, when I read it—I thought to myself, 'Oh, my God, what have I gotten myself into?!'—*But* I had seen a lot of instances of abuse of Filipino women abroad, so I held my ground. I do the final monologue, the one on childbirth.

"My other fear was: *Kaya ko ba ito,* working with these gifted theater artists? But after going deep down into my own birth experience with my children, I feel I can do my monologue well, come opening night.—I still don't expect my dad to watch, though!".

Lyn Sherman: "Doubts and fears? Just the show's title itself. I couldn't even tell my mom! But now that I'm a part of it, it's wonderful. I'm terribly excited—and I'm going to invite my mom!"

Cynthia Alexander: "I had no qualms, really. It's an important lesson for all women to know their own bodies. It would be such a shame if we didn't!"

Arlene Borja: "I'm open to anything—I can even go bold if the role calls for it (gasp)!"

Christine Carlos: "After the last play I did, which was a religious musical, this *is* quite a radical change of pace for me (I hope the religious group I belong to doesn't raise its collective eyebrows)! But we need to save the Filipina from those who want to use and abuse her, so this show *must* be done, and I have to be a part of it."

Beautiful

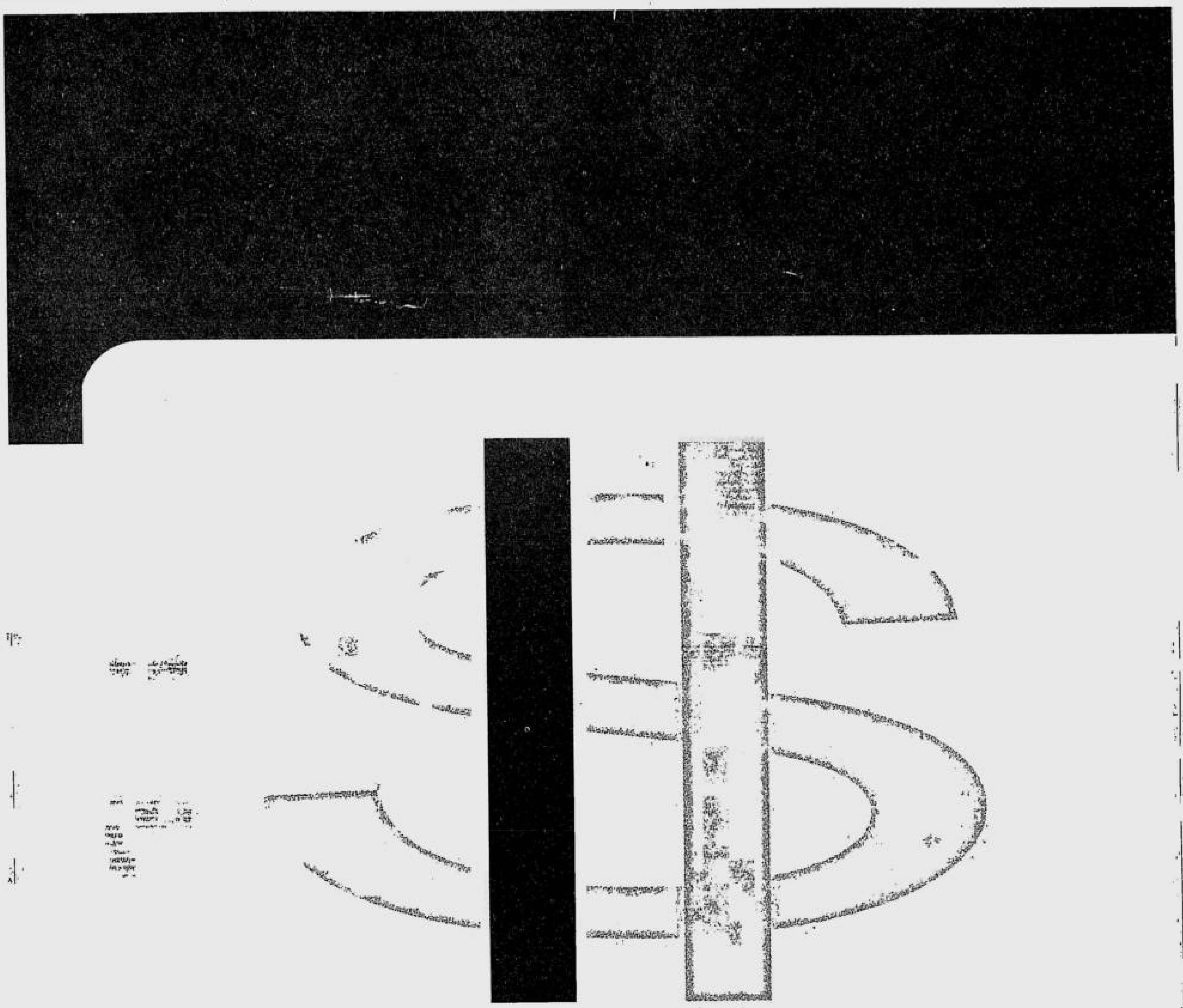
Jenny Jamora: "When I first heard about the show, I thought it was probably going to be vulgar. But, when I saw it, it was beautiful, it touched me. And it made me feel comfortable with my own body."

For her part, Monique Wilson shares that the Jan. 26 and 27 shows will celebrate V-Day 2001, and the presentation is being titled "Purple Rose ... An Evening with the Vagina Monologues."

V-Day is a global movement that gives the issue of women high visibility in the media. As for Purple Rose, it's Gabriela's international campaign versus the sex trafficking of Filipino women and children.

Direction is by Monique, and the assistant director is Rito Asilo. The show's performance dates coincide with the V-Day celebration in Madison Square Garden in New York.

V-DAY ACTRESSES. (Top) Irma Adlawan-Marasigan, Shamaine Centenera-Buencamino (Middle, seated) Belinda Panelo, Christine Carlos, Arlene Borja, Madeleine Nicolas and Olga Natividad (Bottom) Jenny Jamora and Angela Padilla.



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Shop in pesos and get a chance to win in dollars* with the Livin' La VISA Lifestyle Raffle! Just charge a minimum of ₱1,000 to your VISA card and you could win the first prize: U.S. $40,000 in cash credit! There's also a second prize of U.S. $5,000, a third prize of U.S. $1,000 and twenty consolation prizes of U.S. $200 each. It's so easy to join! Just indicate your name, address, telephone number, and signature on the back of the charge slip, put it in a white envelope and drop in drop boxes in selected supermarkets. Or mail your entries to "Livin' La VISA Lifestyle Raffle Promo", c/o Ace Saatchi and Saatchi, 10th flr, Feliza Bldg., 108 Herrera St., Legaspi Village, Makati City, Metro Manila. And if you're a merchant that accepts VISA then you could be a winner too! The merchants of the First to Third prize winners also get dollar prizes! The Livin' la VISA Lifestyle Raffle promo runs from December 15, 2000 to March 15, 2001 only so charge today!

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City Lite 88.3
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VISA Electron
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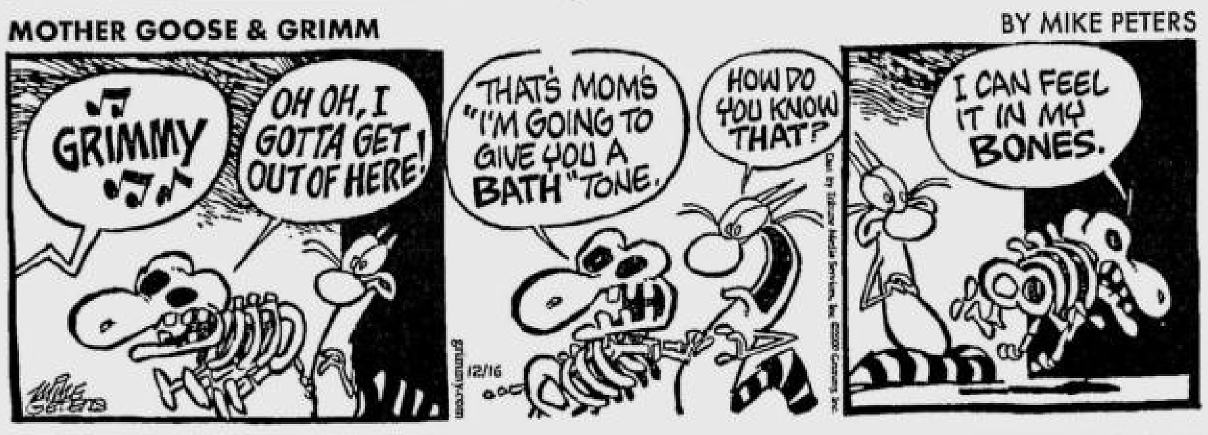
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1255 series of 2000.

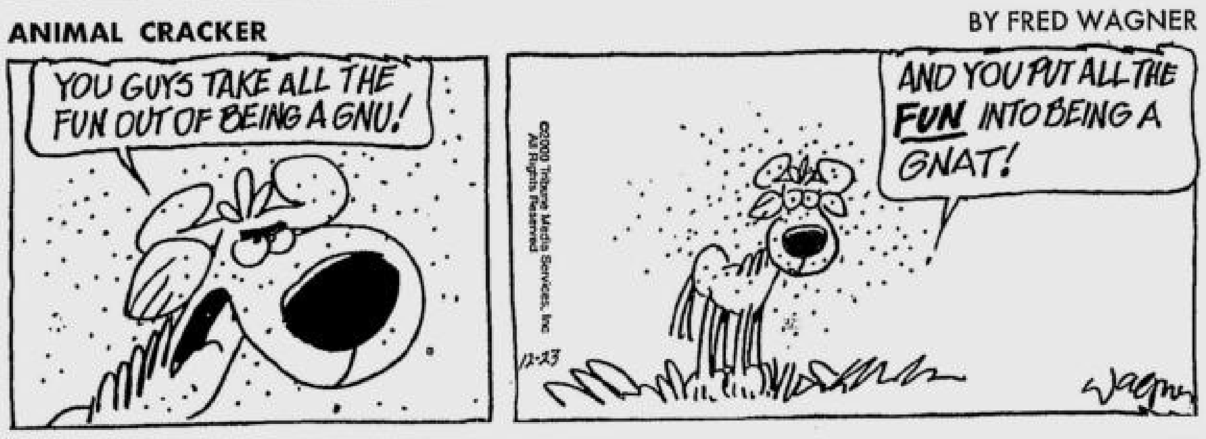
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


♪ GRIMMY ♪♪
OH OH, I GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE!
THAT'S MOM'S "I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU A BATH" TONE.
HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT?
I CAN FEEL IT IN MY BONES.
12/16
grimmy.com

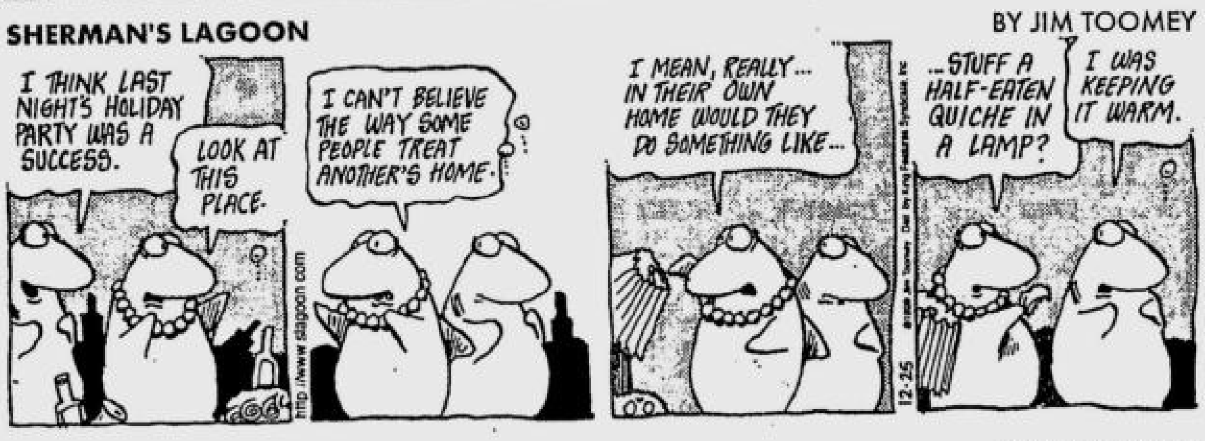
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


YOU GUYS TAKE ALL THE FUN OUT OF BEING A GNU!
AND YOU PUT ALL THE FUN INTO BEING A GNAT!
©2000 Tribune Media Services, Inc All Rights Reserved
12-23
Wagner

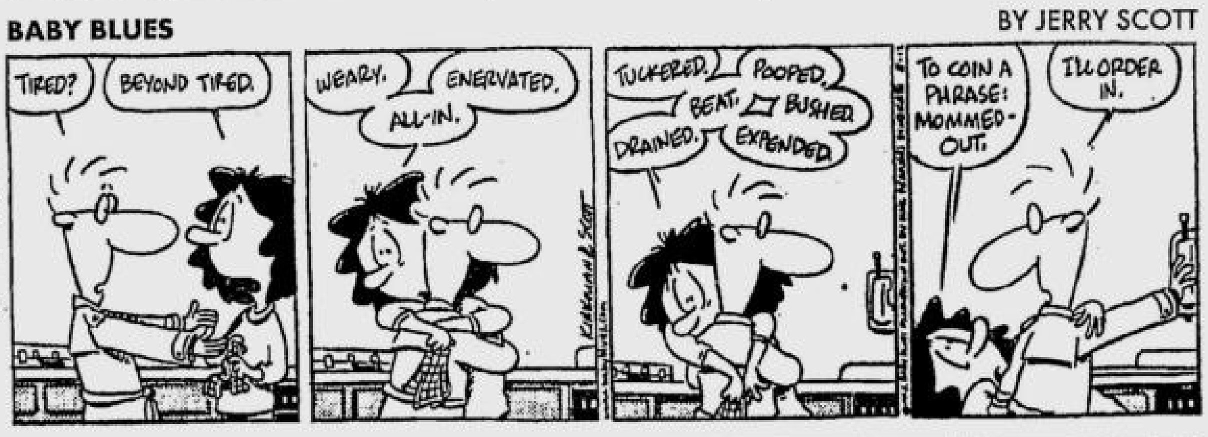
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


I THINK LAST NIGHT'S HOLIDAY PARTY WAS A SUCCESS.
LOOK AT THIS PLACE.
I CAN'T BELIEVE THE WAY SOME PEOPLE TREAT ANOTHER'S HOME.
I MEAN, REALLY... IN THEIR OWN HOME WOULD THEY DO SOMETHING LIKE...
...STUFF A HALF-EATEN QUICHE IN A LAMP?
I WAS KEEPING IT WARM.
http://www.slagoon.com
12-25

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


TIRED?
BEYOND TIRED.
WEARY.
ENERVATED.
ALL-IN.
TUCKERED.
POOPED.
BEAT.
BUSHED.
DRAINED.
EXPENDED.
TO COIN A PHRASE: MOMMED-OUT.
I'LL ORDER IN.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Federico Fellini, David Lynch, Patricia Neal, Buzz Aldrin, Lorenzo Lamas, Skeet Ulrich, Nick Anderson, Bill Maher

Happy Birthday: Take the initiative and do your own thing. Your future will depend on how independent you are and how well you promote yourself. You will be compassionate, but must not let anyone take advantage of you or set you back. Be precise, imaginative and forthright and you'll have no regrets. Your numbers: 15, 31, 35, 38, 42, 46

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't become angry with family or friends. You will have to gauge your activities wisely, or exhaustion will result. Travel will be tiring and uneventful.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't be too eager to let others in on your personal secrets. Rumors will lead to a poor reputation. Take the time for reading material that will help your self-image.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You will have to make a decision regarding your personal partner. The infatuations you have been experiencing may be due to something you are lacking in your emotional relationship.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Be cautious while traveling. Focus on completing those domestic jobs that you've been putting on the back burner. Work out a budget that will help stabilize your financial situation.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You have to make your mind up about personal issues. Your need to meet new people and spend more time away from home may be due to a lack of mental and emotional stimulation.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't get involved with a person who is already committed to someone else. One-sided attractions will be detrimental to your emotional well-being. Deception will cause confusion.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You will enjoy getting together with friends and relatives. Refrain from being overindulgent. Changes to your living quarters or residential moves will be to your advantage.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Talk to those you respect about your professional intentions. You may want to look into ways of making a little extra cash. Offer your services to those in a position to hire you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): This will not be an easy day to talk to your mate about serious matters. You are likely to say things that you will regret later. Keep busy with your weekend chores.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You will not take personal criticism well. Don't retaliate or tempers will escalate. You would be wise to delve into creative projects or hobbies to keep out of trouble.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Travel will be conducive to meeting new love interests. Listen to others and you will be sure to obtain valuable information. Participate in sports events that will test your endurance.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't let others talk you into things that you really don't want to do. You will have a tendency to spend too much on children or entertainment. You will meet potential mates through volunteer groups.

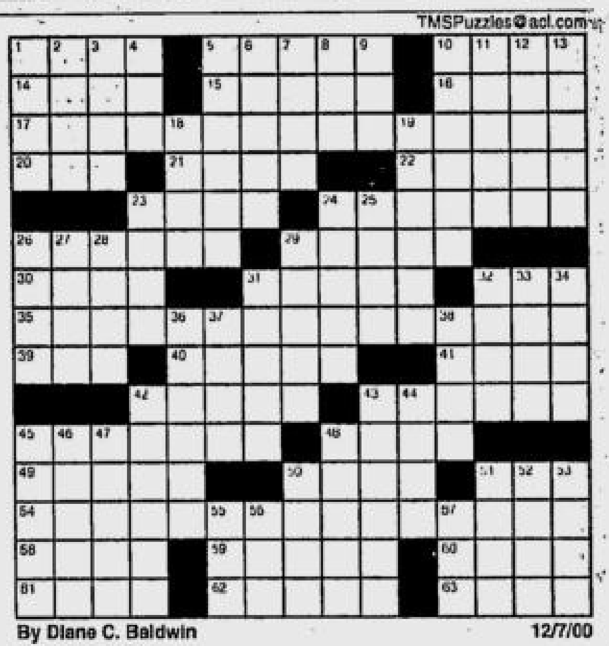
Birthday Baby: You are bright, caring and materialistic. You can lead others in a positive direction. You will attract unusual friends and companions who will stand by you through thick and thin.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com

ACROSS

1 Regular solid having six congruent square faces
5 Nurse Barton
10 Computer fodder?
14 Spoken
15 Homegrown
16 Wool producers
17 Initiated
20 Showed the way
21 Work units
22 Sheriff's gang
23 Cooking herb
24 Rustled
26 Clamor
29 Chicago's main airport
30 Operatic highlight
31 Courtyards
32 Rhea's relative
35 Encouraged
39 Crafty
40 Carried along
41 Green fruit
42 Of the sun
43 Minister
45 Even more of a dreamboat
48 Neophyte
49 Prior to
50 Leafy green vegetable
51 Vichy or Ems
54 Destroyed
58 Native American tribe
59 Briny deep
60 Good life
61 Cuts down
62 Litigants
63 Slow down!



By Diane C. Baldwin
Columbia, MD

12/7/00

DOWN

1 Run rings around?
2 Egg on
3 Wedding token
4 Wallach of "The Magnificent Seven"
5 Priesthood
6 Become imbedded
7 Play divisions
8 Cheering word
9 Foamy brew
10 Oust
11 Sloshing
12 To the point
13 Interrogated
18 Sign of remorse
19 Corkscrew
23 Look over
24 Tatter
25 Homeless child
26 Bumpkins
27 Asian mountain range
28 Itsy-bitsy
29 Additional
31 Fragrant oil
32 Send off
33 Short note
34 Internet patron
36 Star in a French sky
37 Mete (out)
38 Furthermore
42 Glistens
43 Bridge supports
44 Territory
45 Reagan nickname
46 Accustom
47 Scatter here and there
48 Mongolian invader
50 Patella's location
51 Former ruler of Iran
52 Uruguayan money
53 On the bounding main
55 John __ Passos
56 Hospital area letters
57 Stitch up

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

A	R	C	■	O	R	E	S	T	E	S	■	A	L	L
L	E	E	■	R	E	N	A	U	L	T	■	E	E	E
A	N	D	R	E	M	E	M	B	E	R	■	R	A	F
S	E	E	N	■	■	■	S	E	M	I	S	O	F	T
■	■	■	A	M	P	M	■	S	I	D	O	N	■	■
M	I	D	■	O	R	E	O	■	■	E	R	A	S	E
I	T	I	S	N	O	T	W	H	O	■	R	U	E	R
C	A	S	T	■	S	O	N	A	R	■	O	T	T	O
A	L	T	O	■	Y	O	U	K	N	O	W	I	T	S
S	Y	R	U	P	■	■	P	E	O	N	■	C	O	E
■	■	E	P	E	E	S	■	S	T	O	W	■	■	■
R	O	S	S	E	T	T	I	■	■	■	O	O	P	S
A	D	S	■	W	H	O	M	Y	O	U	K	N	O	W
V	I	E	■	E	E	R	I	E	S	T	■	U	S	A
E	N	D	■	E	L	M	T	R	E	E	■	S	H	Y

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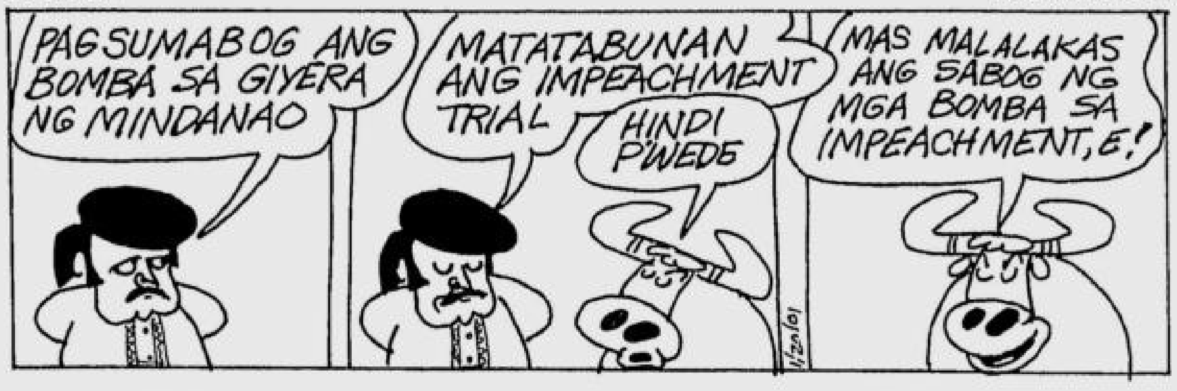
12/7/00

ANSWER ON MONDAY

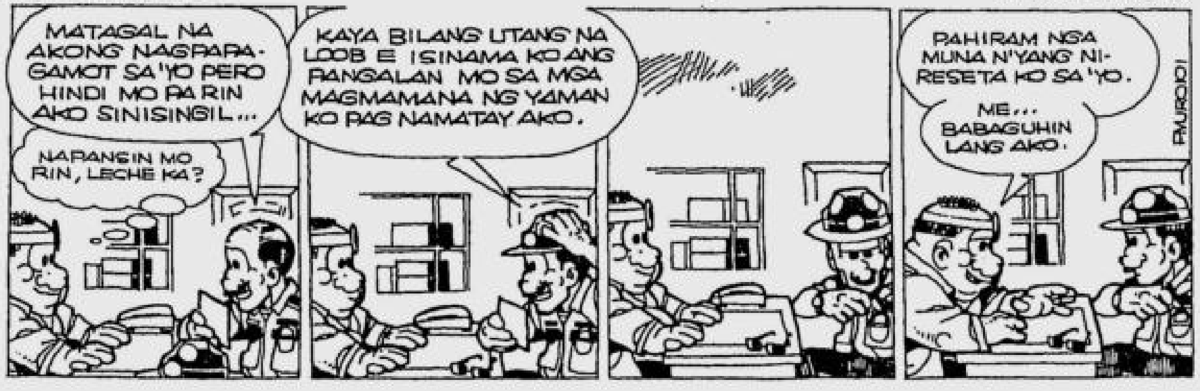
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


PAGSUMABOG ANG BOMBA SA GIYERA NG MINDANAO
MATATABUNAN ANG IMPEACHMENT TRIAL
HINDI PWEDE
MAS MALALAKAS ANG SABOG NG MGA BOMBA SA IMPEACHMENT, E!
1/20/01

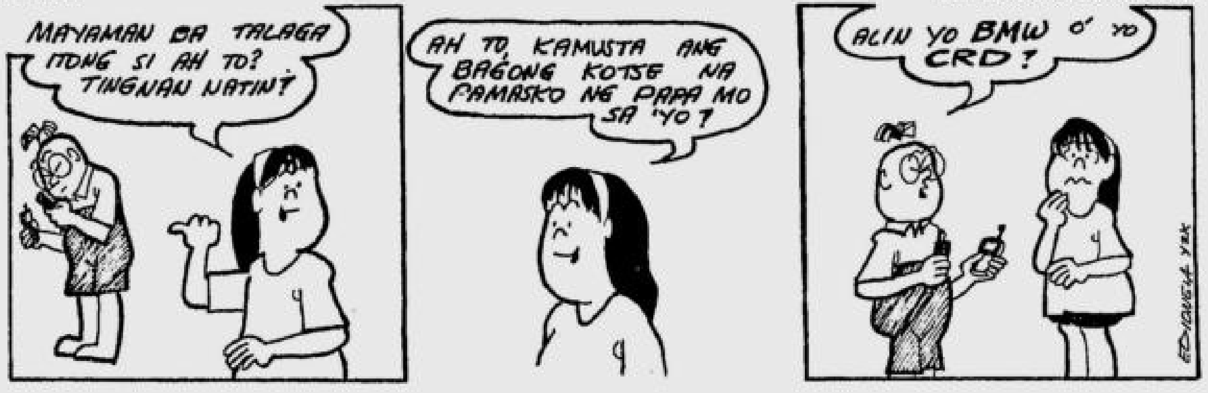
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


MATAGAL NA AKONG NAGPAPA-GAMOT SA'YO PERO HINDI MO PA RIN AKO SINISINGIL...
NAPANSIN MO RIN, LECHE KA?
KAYA BILANG UTANG NA LOOB E ISINAMA KO ANG PANGALAN MO SA MGA MAGMAMANA NG YAMAN KO PAG NAMATAY AKO.
PAHIRAM NGA MUNA N'YANG NI-RESETA KO SA'YO.
ME... BABAGUHIN LANG AKO.
PMJR©01

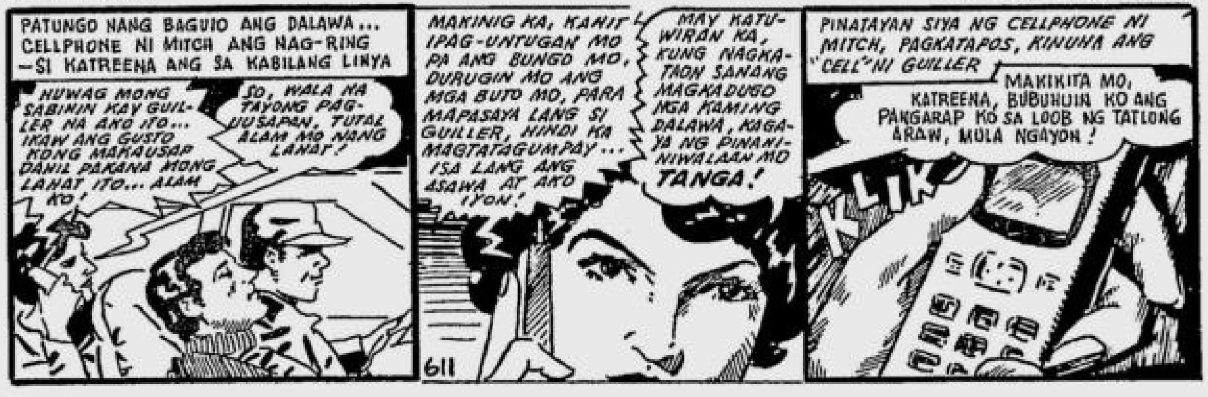
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


MAYAMAN BA TALAGA ITONG SI AH TO? TINGNAN NATIN!
AH TO, KAMUSTA ANG BAGONG KOTSE NA PAMASKO NG PAPA MO SA 'YO?
ALIN YO BMW O' YO CRD?
EDIONELA YRK

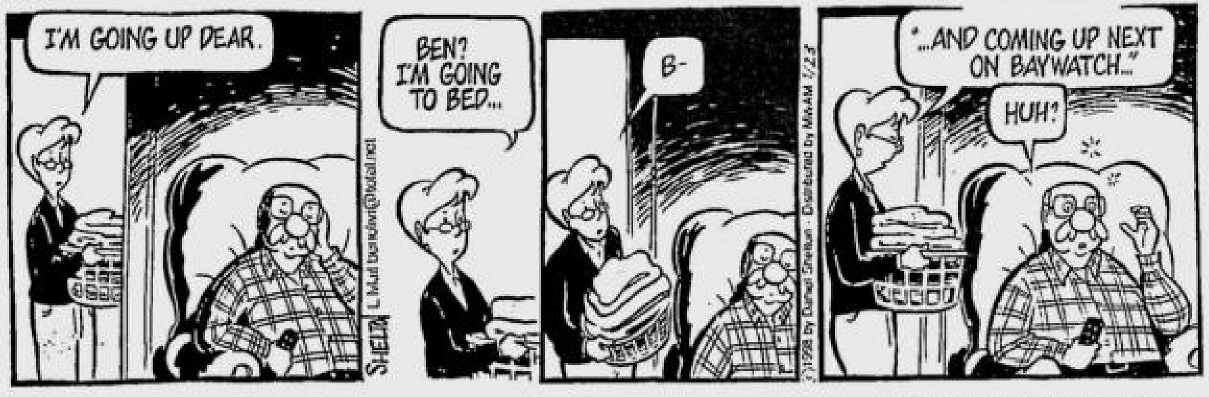
KATREENA

BY JOY CONIENDO


PATUNGO NANG BAGUIO ANG DALAWA... CELLPHONE NI MITCH ANG NAG-RING —SI KATREENA ANG SA KABILANG LINYA
HUWAG MONG SABIHIN KAY GUILLER NA AKO ITO... IKAW ANG GUSTO KONG MAKAUSAP DAHIL PAKANA MONG LAHAT ITO... ALAM KO!
SO, WALA NA TAYONG PAG-UUSAPAN, TUTAL ALAM MO NANG LAHAT!
MAKINIG KA, KAHIT IPAG-UNTUGAN MO PA ANG BUNGO MO, DURUGIN MO ANG MGA BUTO MO, PARA MAPASAYA LANG SI GUILLER, HINDI KA MAGTATAGUMPAY... ISA LANG ANG ASAWA AT AKO IYON!
MAY KATUWIRAN KA, KUNG NAGKATAON SANANG MAGKADUGO NGA KAMING DALAWA, KAGAYA NG PINANINIWALAAN MO TANGA!
PINATAYAN SIYA NG CELLPHONE NI MITCH, PAGKATAPOS, KINUHA ANG "CELL" NI GUILLER
MAKIKITA MO, KATREENA, BUBUHUIN KO ANG PANGARAP KO SA LOOB NG TATLONG ARAW, MULA NGAYON!
KLIK
611

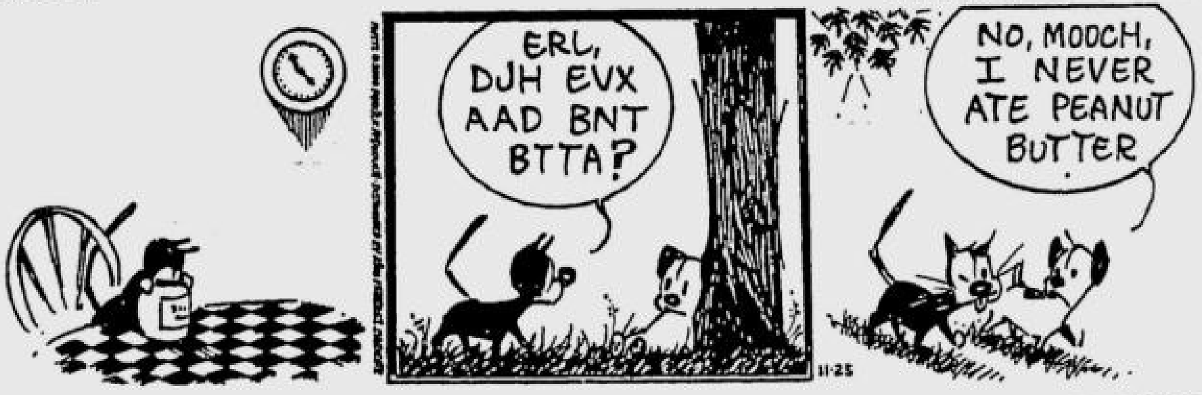
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


I'M GOING UP DEAR.
BEN? I'M GOING TO BED...
B-
"...AND COMING UP NEXT ON BAYWATCH..."
HUH?
SHELTON
1/23

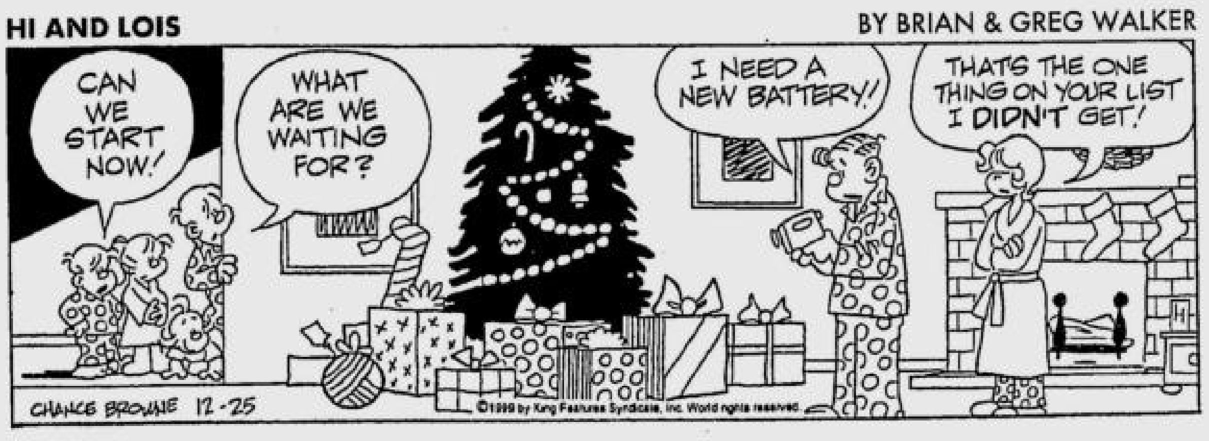
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


ERL, DJH EVX AAD BNT BTTA?
NO, MOOCH, I NEVER ATE PEANUT BUTTER
11-25

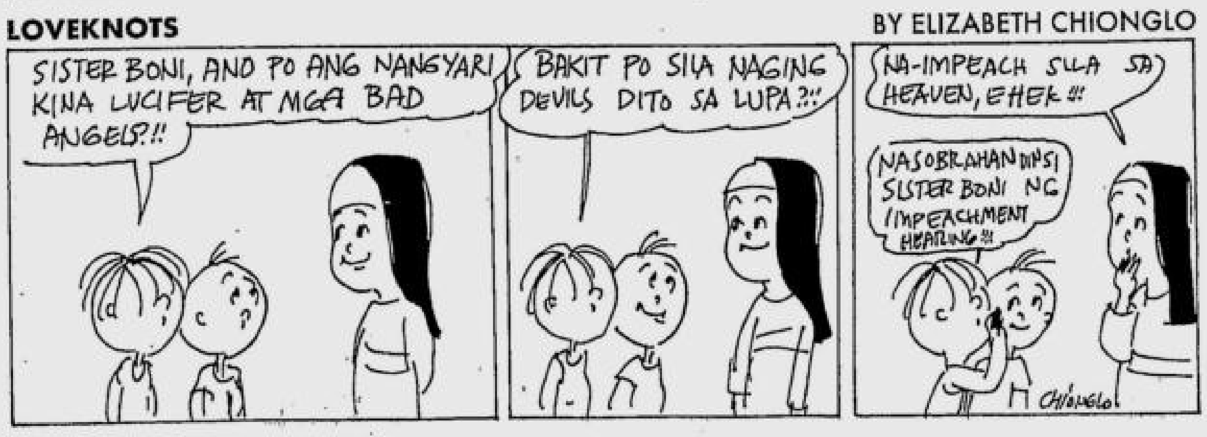
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


CAN WE START NOW!
WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?
I NEED A NEW BATTERY!
THAT'S THE ONE THING ON YOUR LIST I DIDN'T GET!
CHANCE BROWNE 12-25
©1999 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

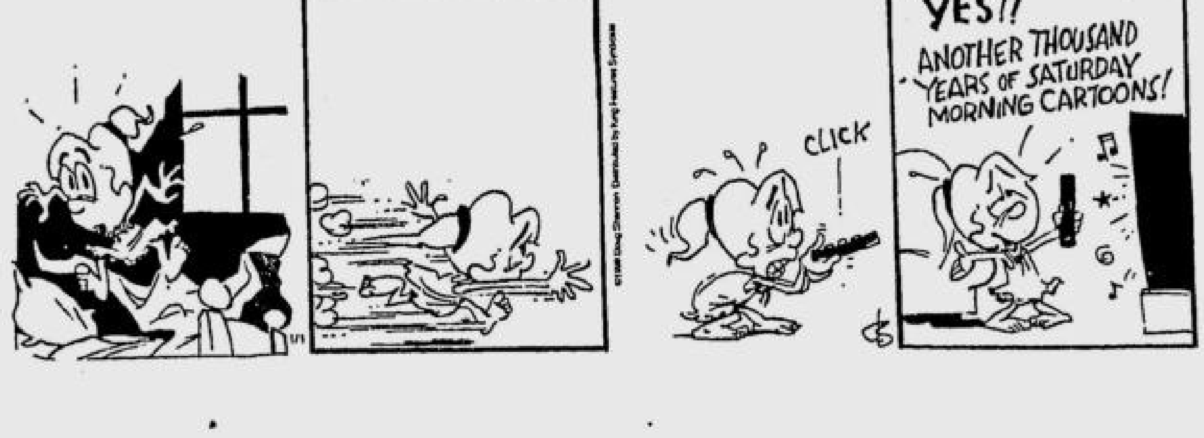
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


SISTER BONI, ANO PO ANG NANGYARI KINA LUCIFER AT MGA BAD ANGELS?!!
BAKIT PO SILA NAGING DEVILS DITO SA LUPA?!!
NA-IMPEACH SILA SA HEAVEN, EHEK!!!
NASOBRAHAN YATA SI SISTER BONI NG IMPEACHMENT HEARING!!!
CHIONGLO

CLAIRE

BY DOUG SHANNON

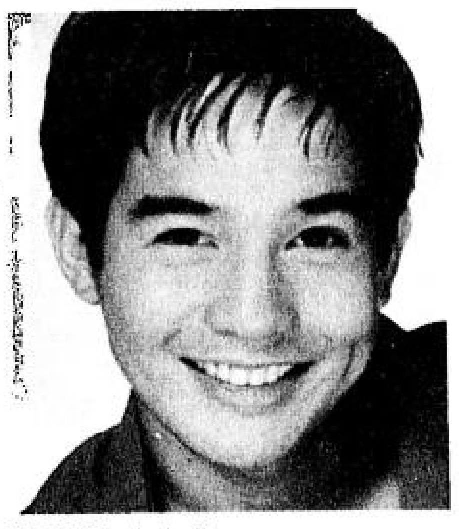

CLICK
YES!! ANOTHER THOUSAND YEARS OF SATURDAY MORNING CARTOONS!

TWO FOR THE SHOW

Spotlight on Piolo Pascual and Rico Yan

By Mary Ann A. Bautista and Ricky T. Gallardo

PASCUAL. Homebody.



YAN. Workaholic.

AT 23, Piolo Pascual prefers to stay home than party at night. He claims that being in the limelight complicates things, while being with his family simplifies them.

"When I'm at home, I play a lot with my niece, sleep, take care of our plants, or play with my Dalmatian, Cha-pee. I'm not stressed out and I save money *pa*," Piolo grins.

"When I was in the States, I watched movies everyday. I'm a movie addict. I can't do that anymore here."

His intensity and sensitivity are innate to him. He grew up with four sisters and one brother. He used to have one gallery of matchboxes (toy cars) and courted girls in high school by writing poetry. "Up to now, I write poems when I'm in the mood. My poems are very personal, *walang* pattern, I just write what I feel," he shares.

Unlike Piolo, Rico Yan doesn't seem to have much free time. He's in the cast of "Saan Ka Man Naroroon," and oversees his food business.

"I'm going into business more for the experience than the financial compensation. I learn something different everyday because Tequila Joe is a casual dining restaurant, while Java Hut is a coffee and waffles shop, Timbuktu is a bar on Nakpil st. in Malate, and our Orbitz stalls sell pearl shake drinks. I also plan to open an all-day breakfast restaurant soon.

"I'm doing all this because life is a relentless pursuit for knowledge. I have to keep on doing things *na hindi ko alam para matuto ako*," Rico says.

Though he can't hang out with his friends as often as he wants to, Rico makes it a point to send text messages to keep in touch. "*Nagte*-text *ako kay* Marvin (Agustin) and Dominic (Ochoa) *ng* 30 messages a day *para mangulit lang*. I text some of my friends once a week just to say hi. *Kung gusto kong makipagdaldalan, tatawagan ko na lang sila*," Rico shares.

Stars make their presence felt at Edsa

We were proud to see some celebrities taking part in the indignation rallies that converged at historic Edsa after the now infamous 'don't-open-the-envelope' show at the impeachment court.

The old-timers came in full force: the ever-outspoken Apo Hiking Society, Mitch Valdes, Freddie Aguilar, feisty and ferocious Behn Cervantes, Maan Hontiveros, Noel Cabangon, Tessie Tomas, Leo Martinez, Kuh Ledesma, Coritha, Mon David, Pinky Marquez, Edu Manzano and Leah Navarro.

But all eyes turned to the new players in the field who came out because of their personal convictions—and there were many of them. Jericho Rosales, Chad Borja, Rosanna Roces, Boy Abunda, Bituin Escalante, Eula Valdez, Ronnie Quizon, Candy Pangilinan, Jamie Rivera, Johnny Manahan, Jon Santos, and some cast members of "Rent" and "Miss Saigon."

Campos, Anson take charge

After "Miss Saigon" leads Will Chase and Lea Salonga took their final bows last Christmas eve, Scott Anson and Ces Campos assumed the stellar roles in the hit musical.

We were able to catch Campos and Anson in one of their performances and reckon that there is very little reason to miss Chase and Salonga.

Campos' voice has grown fuller after three months of being Salonga's alternate, and she's turned out to be a better actress.

Anson is brilliant in his interpretation of Chris, giving a refreshing characterization of a young American GI who loved and lost during his two-week serious fling.

Jonjon Briones is very good as The Engineer, so subtle yet so real and scheming, and so very different from Leo Valdez's "look-at-me-I'm-fabulous" stance.

Arvin Quirante takes over Robert Seña's celebrated role of Thuy but comes off very weak in terms of delivery and characterization. The night we watched, Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo was Ellen, and there were a few times her voice didn't soar as high as her musical notes required. She also has the tendency to be too careful in her performance, and we didn't like her showing too much compassion for Kim.

El DeBarge brings back memories

While we were in college, El DeBarge broke into the limelight with his very danceable tunes that lorded it over the dance pop charts.

Those of you belonging to our generation would certainly recall dancing to "Rhythm of the Night" at Faces and Subway, two of the most popular discos in the metropolis. And most young parents now will remember some lines from the songs "Starlight Express," "Time Will Reveal" and "Who's Holding Donna Now."

Yes, all those hits were churned in by El DeBarge, the one who's got the soothing, silky vocals and writes and produces his own songs. He also plays the drums, percussion and keyboards and has tried acting.

The good news is El DeBarge is performing with Patti Austin at the Araneta Coliseum in a show called "Reminiscing III."

Religious festival honors the Santo Niño

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

(Conclusion)

BOARD secretary Rommel Ortin's Santo Niño de la Sancta Infancia or Divino Niño is dressed like a Pope, complete with a white vestment, a scepter and a tiara.

Figurine

The youngest member, Dr. Bryan Brosas, calls his image the Santo Niño de Padua, while Chito Ilagan, a member since 1982, discovered his figurine in a basket full of antiques in Madrid, Spain. Chito feels the Niño had a hand in curing him after he was diagnosed with having cancer and had his thyroidectomy.

Jesse Nell named his Sto. Niño de Salvacion after Our Lady of Salvation in Tiwi, Albay, who carries the boy Jesus.

Venson Nobrera dresses his Santo Niño de Pinoy in a barong Tagalog and shorts. Venson is a lay minister at the Violago Chapel.

Dennis Maturan, son of singer Diomedes, owns a Sto. Niño de Praga which be bought in Washington D.C. Donnie de Lima got his icon in an antique shop. Made from an old wooden post from a house in Samar, Donnie calls it the Santo Niño de Leyte.

Procession

The Fiesta del Santo Niño 2001 is at the Philippine National Bank building, PNB Financial Center, Pasay City. The exhibit runs until Jan. 27. The grand procession from the venue to Rizal Park will be held on Jan. 28.

JESSE Nell and His Santo Niño de Salvacion.

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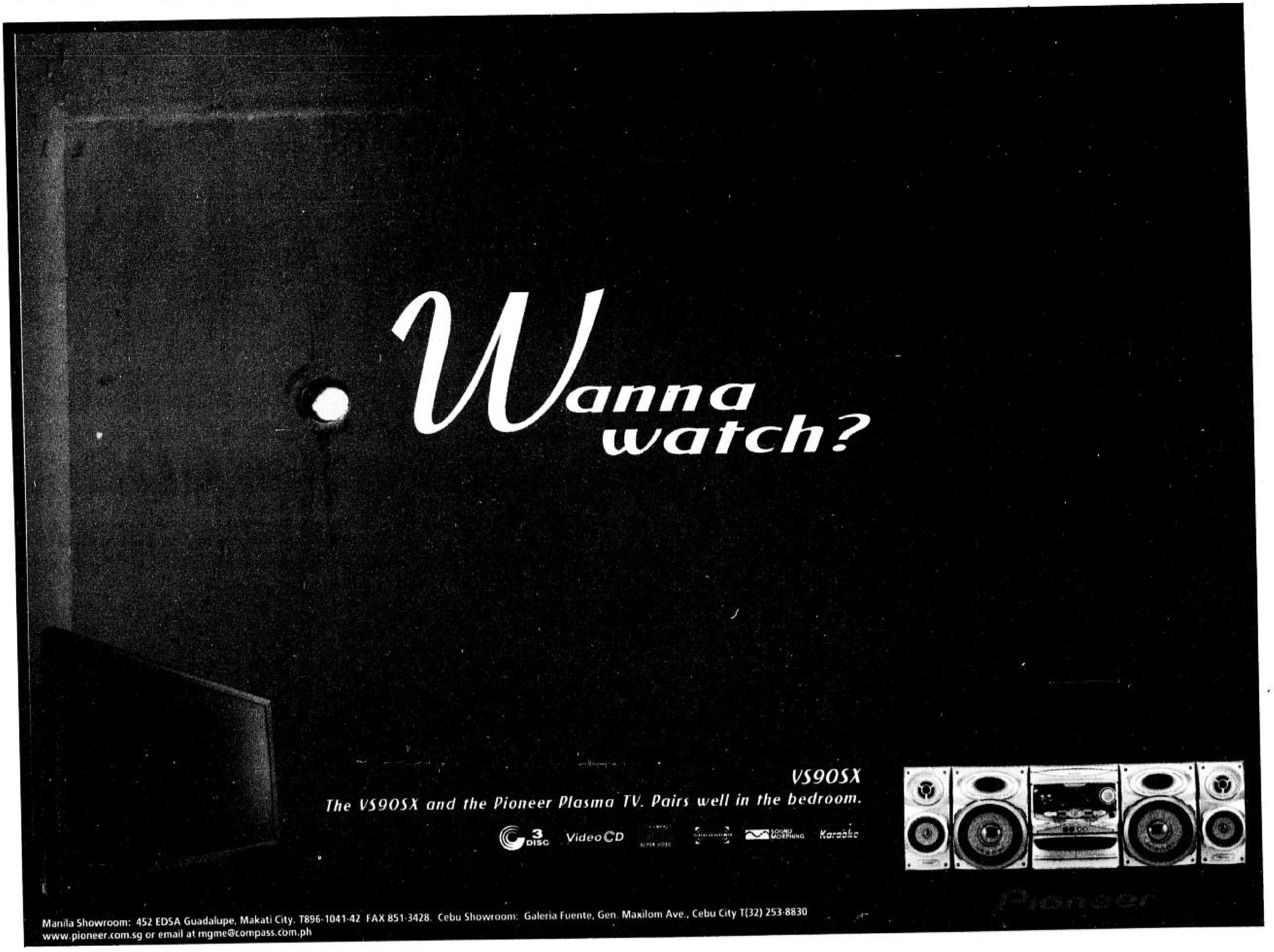
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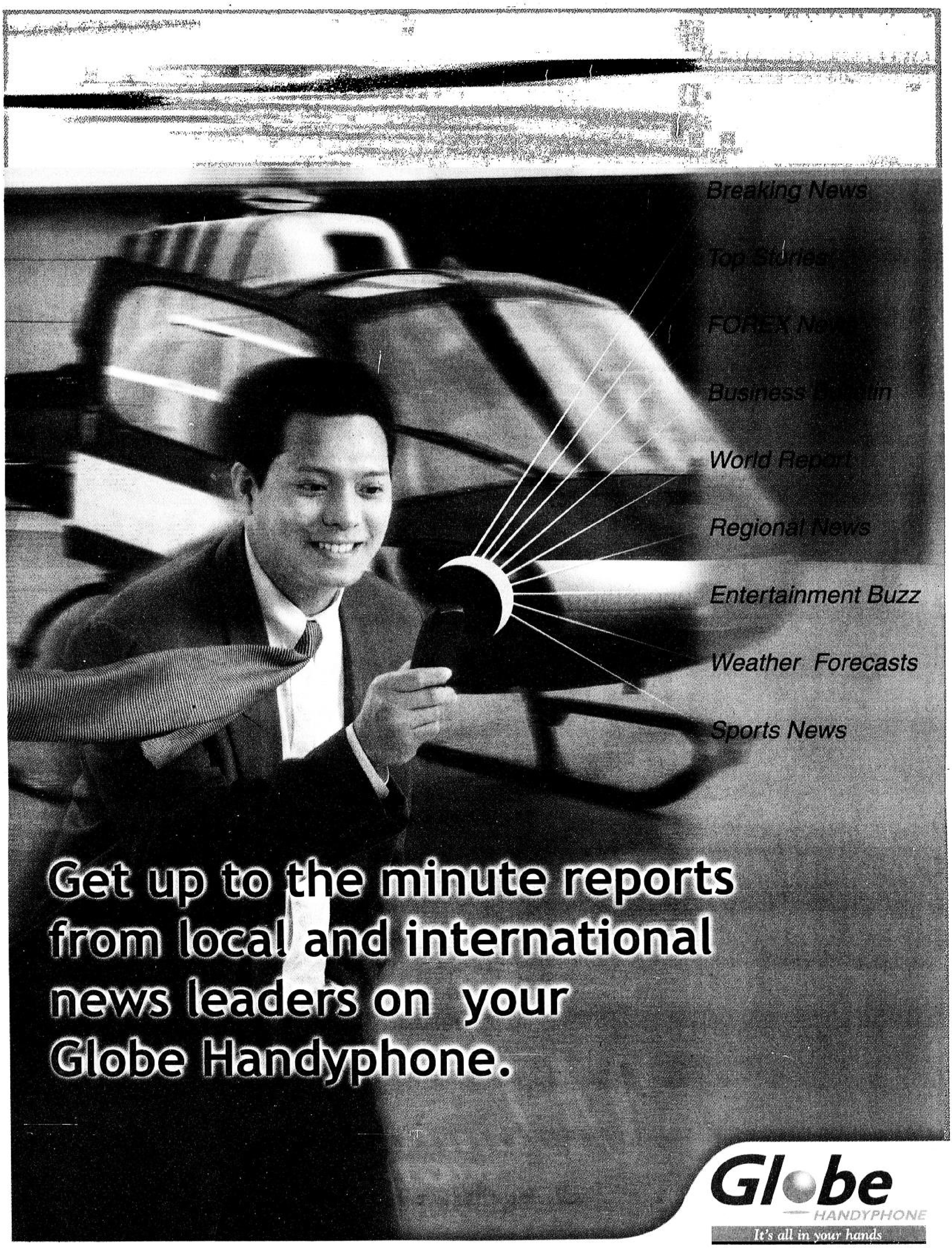
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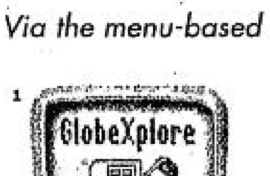
GlobeXplore
Select

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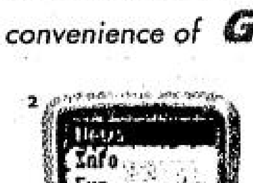
2


News
Info
Fun
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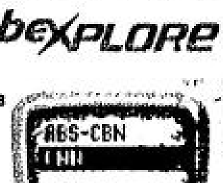
Click on NEWS from the categories that will be shown on the screen.

3


ABS-CBN
CNN
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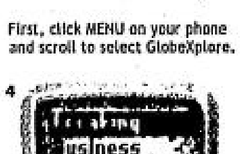
Breaking
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Showbiz
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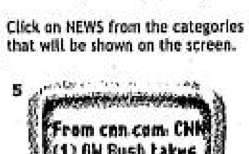
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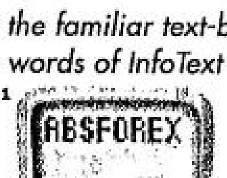
1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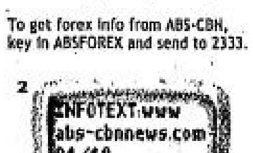
2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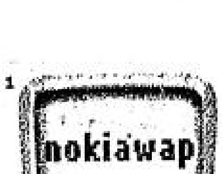
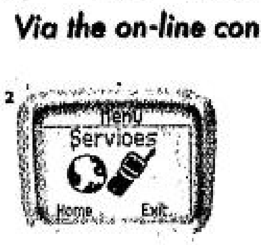
1


nokiawap

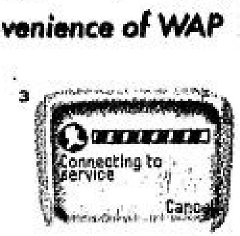
If you're a first time WAP-user, type the keyword of your phone type* and send it to 2333. The WAP phone configurations will be sent to you. Follow the settings and configure your phone.

2


Menu
Services
Home Exit

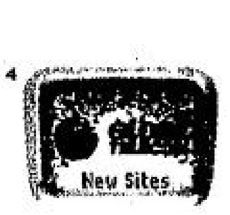
If your WAP handset is already configured, then go to the services menu of your WAP-capable phone and click on Home.

3


Connecting to service
Cancel

You will then see a prompt advising you that you are being connected to the service.

4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- For Nokia 7110 and 6210-nokiawap • For EricssonR320s-ericssonwap
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Saturday SPECIAL

PHILLIPPE. Quite a switch from his teen flicks.

Ryan Phillippe plays a computer nerd

By Elizabeth A. Kennedy

NEW YORK—In the new thriller "Antitrust," Ryan Phillippe plays a computer nerd who uncovers possible criminal dealings in a multibillion-dollar software company.

Switch

That's quite a switch from his teen flicks "I Know What You Did Last Summer"

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Belinda Panelo has spunk and style

By Mary Ann A. Bautista

BELINDA Panelo has spunk and style—and charm that can keep viewers glued on MTV. Her spontaneity and cockiness can be disarming. But as a theater actress and comedienne, her intelligence and sensitivity allows her to sink into any role. Though she has been offered to "bare" for a hefty sum, she prefers to keep her clothes on.

Quick buck

"I don't consider myself sexy! Sexy would describe Cindy Crawford, Linda Evangelista and Jennifer Lopez. I think people are taking advantage of this whole willing-to-bare-your-body thing for a quick buck. Because I'm Fil-American, they think I'm liberated. I wish producers would give their audience more substance and less skin," Belinda declares.

Most of the VJs on MTV are gorgeous and articulate, so how does she manage to stand out in "Be Seen" and "MTV Classic?" Does she try to project a certain image to attract more viewers?

"I play around with the camera a lot! I have a lot of fun and it makes me happy. I don't do it to have an edge or anything, I just do my best. I'm not afraid to make fun of myself. I can look silly and stupid as I host and introduce music videos. I'm not self-conscious.

"I got my goofiness from my mom and I try to inject a bit of that in each segment I do. I'm a lot more daring, outspoken and independent. I think I represent the type of Filipina who doesn't get represented a lot," Belinda grins.

PANELO. Life is no fairy tale.

She claims that aside from playing and moving with the camera, she also moves well in the kitchen. "I cook well. My dad (Salvador) is an excellent cook. I go to his place during weekends to eat. I don't think my Dad sees me as a good cook, though. I like to experiment in the kitchen. That's why I like to discover new restaurants with my boyfriend, to explore their cuisine."

She enjoys watching movies at home because people who talk inside moviehouses annoy her. Tardiness and ignorance irritate her. She's learning to live with the traffic in Manila. She claims that she doesn't make long-range plans because she prefers to live on a day-to-day basis. "We all learn lessons from our past mistakes. As far as making plans and lists of those lessons, I don't consciously make them. But I have noticed that when I have learned the lesson, I don't make the same mistake again," Belinda relates.

Belinda wants to travel and explore new things this year. She wants to discover new interests. She reveals though that being away from her Mom makes her insecure.

Backbone

"My family is not here and they're my backbone. I consider them as my true friends because I rely on them all the time. But while I'm here in Manila, I don't have that kind of security.

"Before, I could just go to my sister's house and the sadness went away. Now I have to do everything on my own and take responsibility for it. So whenever I visit them, I make little movies, short films with my video camera. We did a movie about a tumor, we bought liver from the grocery store and shot it! Sometimes I do animation with dolls."

She also wants Filipinas to be more expressive, assertive and empowered this year. "Most Filipinas want something but they don't want to communicate their wants and needs. They aren't taught that it's OK to want things.

"I think you should take responsibility for yourself and say what you want. Otherwise, you're going to get stuck in a rut," she frowns. "The biggest myth in life and in love is that you'll live happily ever after!"

She clowns around on MTV. She's saucy, not sweet, but for her, life is no fairytale!

'Hannibal' heads savory Hollywood lineup for early 2001

By David Germain

(Conclusion)

FILMS for February:

"Down to Earth": Chris Rock in a "Heaven Can Wait" update about a comedian returned to life in a borrowed body.

"Enemy at the Gates": Jude Law, Joseph Fiennes and Ed Harris star in a World War II duel between sharpshooters during the siege of Stalingrad.

"Head Over Heels": A Manhattanite (Monica Potter) finds a beau (Freddie Prinze Jr.) who may be her dream man or a wacko killer.

"The Million Dollar Hotel": Mel Gibson is an investigator examining the death of a billionaire's son at a seedy hotel. Wim Wenders directs.

Sultry thriller

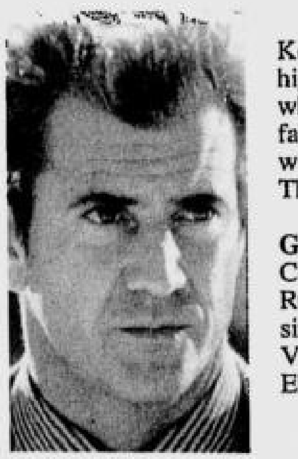
"Original Sin": Antonio Banderas and Angelina Jolie steam things up in a sultry thriller about a Cuban merchant who takes an American bride.

"The Price of Milk": Life down on the dairy farm turns sour when a woman subjects her mate to bizarre tests of his passion and devotion.

"Recess: School's Out": School kids fight a deranged ex-principal who wants to eliminate summer vacation in this animated flick.

"Saving Silverman": Two buddies try to rescue a pal (Jason Biggs) from his vile fiancee (Amanda Peet) by abducting her and pretending she's dead.

"Say It Isn't So": Heather Graham and Chris Klein play lovers whose romance crashes when they learn they may be sister and brother. Produced by the Farrelly brothers.



GIBSON. Plays a PI in his latest movie.

"Sweet November": Keanu Reeves is a high-pressure ad exec who takes time out to fall for a free-spirited woman (Charlize Theron).

"3000 Miles to Graceland": Kevin Costner and Kurt Russell in a tale of casino thieves who pull a Vegas job dressed as Elvis impersonators.

Stalker

"Valentine": Four San Francisco women are stalked by a killer over Valentine's Day weekend. David Boreanaz and Denise Richards co-star.

March:

"About Adam": A Dublin singer (Kate Hudson) and her family are mesmerized by the charms of her new beau (Stuart Townsend).

"Animal Husbandry": After a soured romance, a woman (Ashley Judd) embarks on a study of men and starts a sex column under a pseudonym.

"Blow Dry": A hairdresser (Alan Rickman) teams with his ex-wife and her salon partner (Natasha Richardson and Rachel Griffiths) in a hairdressing competition.

"The Brothers": Four men (Bill Bellamy, Morris Chestnut, D.L. Hughley and Shemar Moore) bond and bar-hop their way through romantic pitfalls. *AP*

Fil-American playwright reaps accolades in the United States

By Nestor U. Torre

NOT many people know that, in 1997, a Filipino-American scored big in the US theater scene when he became the recipient of the MacArthur Foundation "Genius" award, which carries with it a cash component of $250,000.

The recipient, Han Ong, is an outstanding young playright-novelist, and is the youngest Asian-American winner of the prestigious award.

Executive director

Recently, we met with Jorge Ortoll, the executive director of the Ma-Yi Theater Company in New York City, which has produced some of Ong's plays. He helped us know more about this outstanding young theater artist, which we're happy to share with you:

Ong is a Chinese-Filipino who migrated with his family to the States when he was only 13 years old. A dropout of Xavier School, his expertise in playwriting is largely self-taught.

Teenager

He was already writing as a teenager, and when he was in his early 20s, his plays began to get produced—to critical acclaim. Jorge provides us with an incomplete list of Ong's plays:

"L.A. Stories."

"Chang Fragments"—produced at The Public Theater.

"Airport Music," co-written with Jessica Hagedorn, also for the Public.

"Father and Son," not yet produced.

"The Watcher," possibly to be produced by Ma-Yi this year.

"Middle Finger," mounted by Ma-Yi last August..

"Mysteries," commissioned by Ma-Yi for production this May.

That's a rather short list of plays, and Ong is still relatively young, so we can expect even greater things from him in the future.

Edgy

What makes Ong's plays so special? Jorge describes them as "edgy, contemporary, hip," stylistic language elements that the playwright could have gotten from "the streets," where Ong hung out with ethnics.

How did he get the "Genius" award? The process isn't all that clear because you don't apply for the honor, it's just determined by the extent of your talent.

But Jorge recalls that, three months before the award was given to Ong, Ma-Yi did a workshop production of one of his scripts, "Swoony Planet." Since it was a workshop staging, critics weren't invited, but theater industry people were.

Starving artist

It's possible that some of the theater insiders liked what they saw and recommended the playwright for the much-prized award. In any case, Ong sure needed the $250,000 that came with the honor, because he was a starving artist.

He's much better off now, of course, and in fact is about to come out with his first novel, "Fixer Chao," which will be published by Farrar, Strauss & Giroux.

Jorge shares that Ong is admired for his command of language. He writes primarily about Asians in the United States as they interact with Americans. His "suitcase trilogy" of plays deals with the mobility of American society.

Funny streak

What's Filipino about his works? The characters. His writing also has a funny streak to it that disarms viewers and balances the depth of his insights about people.

"Middle Finger," the Han Ong play Ma-Yi did last year, is a loose adaptation of Frank Wedekind's classic "Spring Awakening." In his playwright's notes, Ong observes: "Wedekind's scope was more comprehensive, about boys *and* girls, and his attack on authoritarianism not specifically Catholic.

"As soon as I made the two lead boys Filipino, Catholic school became a natural outcropping of that choice. And out of Catholicism and sex, it seemed natural to add, as a new conversant not found in the original, the role of the prostitute.

Inevitable

"The character of Wallace, the boy with the birds in his hair, came out of nowhere. I suppose the free-association of the word Spring with the words Bird and Nest was inevitable in my mind. He has no counterpart in the original…

"As in the original, there is the unreasonable, intractable, punitive authoritarianism that exists as a buffer against the fear of natural youthful sexual curiosity. In my version, the aim was for a more realistic boy-speech: gross and ping-pongy and, in the end, nihilistic;

"Given this, and given the lack of Wedekind's Op-ed eloquence, would we still be able to support the boys' cause against un-understanding grown-ups? That was my question. And I hope the answer would be yes."

Is there a chance that Han Ong will visit the Philippines, so that we can show our appreciation to him for helping put Filipino playwrights on the world map? Jorge says that "Swoony Planet" may be presented here, and if the plan pushes through, he might be able to bring the playwright over, along with the Ma-Yi cast. Hope springs.

Ryan Phillippe . . .

(From page D1)

and "Cruel Intentions," but Phillippe says the change was deliberate.

"You always want to try to do something different," the 26-year-old actor said during an interview to promote the film, which also stars Tim Robbins.

Phillippe is married to actress Reese Witherspoon, and he's taken on a new role in his personal life as well: stay-at-home dad. He's been caring for the couple's 15-month-old daughter Ava while Witherspoon works on a movie.

Although diaper duty seems an unlikely way for a popular young actor to be spending his time, Phillippe is taking to it just fine: "I see her start to learn about songs and books. She's putting words together, three or four words together at 15 months, it's pretty cool."

What attracted you to this character?

I liked the idea that this character had no one to turn to or trust, and at the end, he turns the tables on everyone. Sometimes as an actor you get frustrated if you're playing a character who is being duped in some fashion or having the wool pulled over his eyes.

Valuable lesson

But if you have the opportunity to have that character learn some sort of valuable lesson or have them experience something that matures them or changes them in a sense, it works for you.

The movie deals with the loss of privacy. As a celebrity, do you ever fear for your own privacy?

I think that it's becoming less and less specific to being a celebrity; it's something that everybody's got to question at this point. You do online shopping and all that stuff and your credit card is in some database. Who knows how many people can access those records? And with fiber optics ... the idea of someone watching you at home is even more scary because that's your place of safety.

Do you relate more to nerdy roles or heartthrob roles?

I probably relate a little bit more to the geeky character, just because I think deep down everybody is a geek. It's just a lot of people spend a lot of time and energy trying to pretend like they aren't. So it's easier to kind of let all that stuff go and be geekier.

Do you have any aspirations to go behind the camera?

I think acting is something that I'd always like to do in some fashion, but I think I'd really love to put the majority of my energy into producing and eventually directing.

Company

I have a company, Lucid Films, and I'm working really hard to get films off the ground.

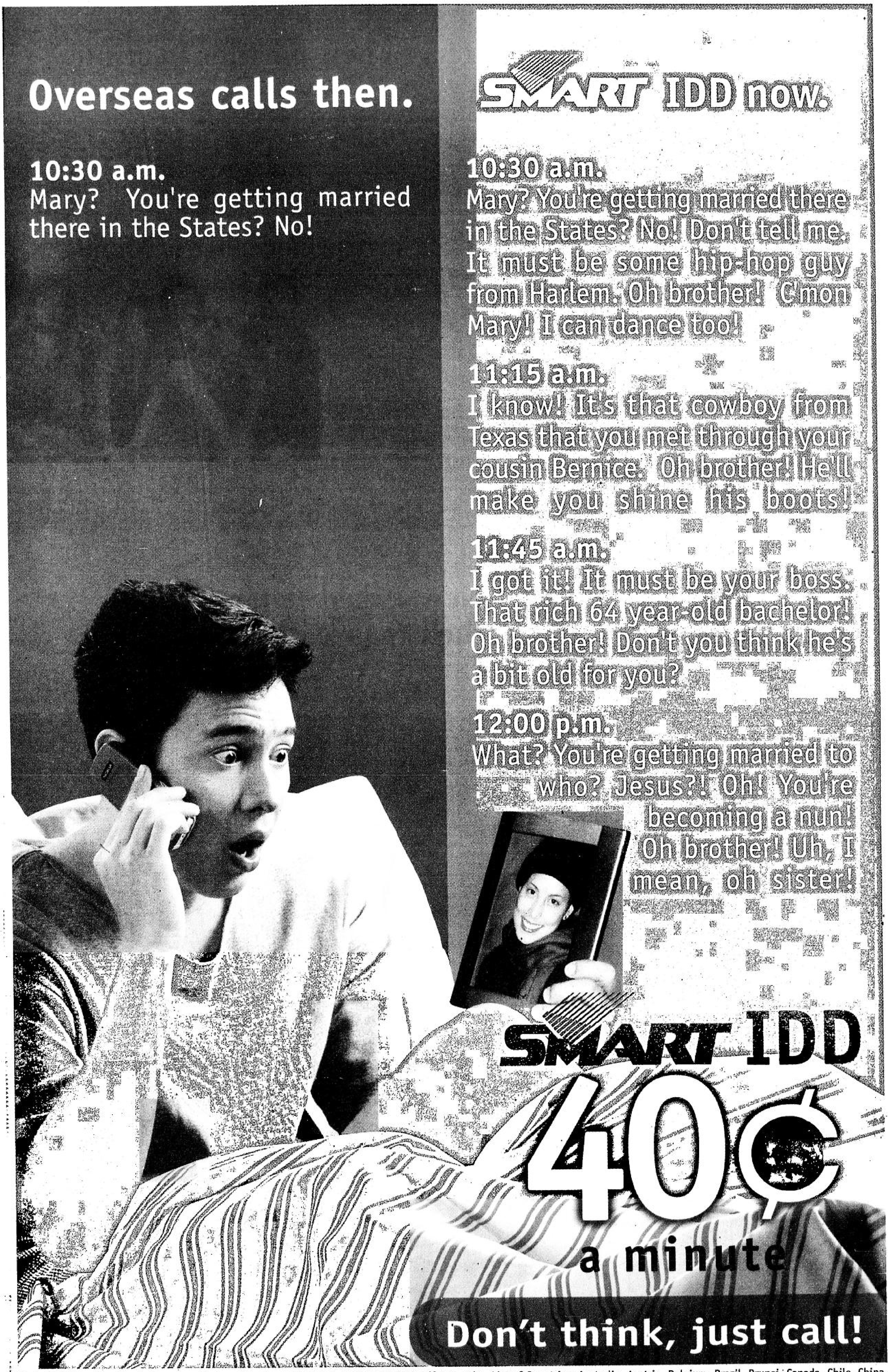
Do you mind talking about your daughter to the press?

I don't mind talking about my child at all. I do mind the idea of people taking pictures against my will, that sort of thing. But talking about it is great. She's so funny. Now it's cool because Reese and I let her pick her clothes. We give her choices. And she's got this crazy thing where she wants to wear these red-plastic boots all the time with this crazy hat that's too small for her and this weird bib. It's so funny. *AP*

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM JAN. 20 — 26

(The INQUIRER is not responsible for last minute changes in programming.)

CH	2	4	5	7	9	13	23	29	E! 31
SAT	5:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 7:00 Ariba, Ariba 8:30 Star Drama Theater 9:30 Pinoy Exposed 10:00 Keep on Dancing 11:00 Loren / "F" 12:00 The Weekend News	6:00 Cartoon Hour 7:00 On-Line Bingo 8:00 SOF 9:00 Lotto Draw 9:15 Road to Sydney 10:15 Fashion Watch 10:45 Olympic Primer 11:15 National Network News 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6:00 Princess Tenko 6:30 Sailormoon Super S 7:00 Easy Money 8:00 Ispup 9:00 Eezy Dancing Non-Stop 10:00 Saturday Night Movies 12:00 Diagnosis Murder	5:30 Brigada Siete 7:00 Kakabakaba 8:00 Kiss Muna 9:30 GMA's BEST *The January Man* 11:00 Master Showman Presents 12:00 GMA Network News 12:30 The 700 Club 1:00 Jesus Miracle Crusade	6:00 SaBayan 7:00 Conan 8:00 Martial Law 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse 11:00 Business Class 11:30 Late Night Movie	5:30 H2K 7:00 Viva Premiere Night 9:00 Kagat sa Dilim 10:00 Gags Must Be Crazy 11:00 Night Lines	4:00 MBA 7:00 Two of a Kind 7:30 Seventh Heaven 8:30 Party of Five 9:30 Studio 23 *Nine Months* 12:00 MTV	3:00 Q Show Case 7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Coming Attractions 7:00 E! Special *In Your Dreams with Cindy Margolis* 9:00 E! True Hollywood Story *Good Times* 10:00 David Letterman Show 11:00 Wild On: *Sunset Strip* 12:00 Search Party
SUN	5:30 Knowledge Power 6:00 Sharon 7:00 Wansapanataym 8:30 Richard Loves Lucy 9:30 ABS-CBN Presents 11:00 The Weekend News 11:30 Oh No, It's Johnny	6:00 Uncut 6:30 Ugat 7:00 On-Line Bingo 8:00 Primetime Specials 10:00 National Network News 10:30 Sultada 11:00 Business & Leisure 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	5:00 Tarzan 6:00 Savage Dragon 6:30 Janperson 7:00 Sing-Galing 8:00 Wow Mali! 9:00 Sunday Night Specials 11:00 Johnny Walker Powerplay 11:30 Sentinel	5:30 Partners Mel and Jay 7:00 Idol Ko Si Kap 8:30 GMA Love Stories 9:30 Sunday Night Box Office *Sphere* 11:30 Sunday Night Specials 12:00 GMA Network News 12:30 A Little Night of Music 1:00 The 700 Club	5:30 Hollywood Squares 6:00 Compañero y Compañera 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 Kids Say the Darndest Things 8:30 Stark Raving Mad 9:00 Sunday's Big Event 11:00 Sunday Report 11:30 Estrada Presidency	4:00 PBA 9:00 Sinemaks 11:00 In His Steps 11:30 PBA Moments	4:00 MBA 7:00 Dawson's Creek 8:00 The Nanny 8:30 Will and Grace 9:00 Veronica's Closet 9:30 Wasteland 10:30 Digital Tour 11:00 Sunday Night Movies	5:00 Quartermaster Window Shop 7:00 Sunday Mini-Series 8:00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night Movies 11:00 *Bikini Open	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 Talk Soup 7:00 60 Minutes 8:00 E! Special *World's Greatest Film Fest* 9:00 E! True Hollywood Story *The Life & Death of Sam Kinison* 11:00 Celebrity Profile *Tim Allen* 12:00 Talk Soup 12:30 FYE!: *L.A. Latino Festival*
MON	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Saan Ka Man Naroroon 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Kaya ni Mister, Kaya ni Misis 9:00 Judy Ann Drama Special 10:30 Headlines 11:00 On Trial 11:30 Correspondents 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6:00 Cartoon Hour 7:00 On-Line Bingo 8:00 Pilipino Box-Office 9:00 Lotto Draw 10:15 National Network News 11:00 Job Network/Fora Medica 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6:00 Gintong Pangarap 6:30 Transformers Original 7:00 Macron 1 7:30 Freakazoid 8:00 By Request 9:00 Spy Games 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Beach Patrol 11:30 High Tide	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Trigun 7:00 Dragonball Z 7:30 Pinoy Blockbusters *Lucio Margallo* 9:30 Tuwing Kapiling Ka 10:30 Front Page 11:00 I-Witness 12:00 The 700 Club 12:30 Midnight Prayer Helps	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 May Bukas Pa 7:00 Siempre Te Amare 7:30 Maria del Cielo 8:00 Michael Hayes 9:00 The X-Files 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 Honasan Reports	7:00 Blow By Blow 8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Viva Proudly Presents 10:30 Super Bouts 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 PBA Moments	6:00 MTV Diyes 7:00 Greed 7:30 Making the Band 8:00 Time of Your Life 9:00 Charmed 10:00 News Central 10:30 Points of View 11:30 Secret Lives of Men 12:00 MTV	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 Fashion Emergency 7:30 Celebrity Homes 8:00 E! Behind the Scenes *Sleepy Hollow* 8:30 E! Mysteries & Scandals *Glenn Miller* 9:00 E! True Hollywood Story *Wally George* 10:00 David Letterman Show
TUE	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Saan Ka Man Naroroon 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Oka Tokat 8:30 Regal Presents 10:30 Headlines 11:00 On Trial 11:30 Pipol 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6:30 Cartoon Hour 7:00 On-Line Bingo 8:00 PBL 9:00 Lotto Draw 10:15 National Network News 11:00 Business Insight 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6:00 Gintong Pangarap 6:30 Transformers Original 7:00 G.I. Joe 7:30 Superman (Animated) 8:00 Hercules 9:00 Team Knight Rider 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Kontak 5 11:30 F/X The Series 12:30 The Big News (Replay)	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Monster Rancher 7:00 Virtua Fighter 7:30 Kool Ka Lang 9:00 Kasangga 10:30 Front Page 11:00 The Probe Team 11:30 700 Club 12:00 Pulpit of Christ	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 May Bukas Pa 7:00 Siempre Te Amare 7:30 Maria del Cielo 8:00 Ally McBeal 9:00 The Practice 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 Jay Sonza's Tapatan 11:30 Ngayon Na Pinoy	6:00 Rising Stars of Billiards 7:00 DMZ TV 8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Now Showing 11:00 Ronda Trese	6:00 MTV Most Wanted 7:00 Greed 7:30 Popular 8:30 Beverly Hills 90210 9:30 Then Came You 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:15 Secret Lives of Men 12:45 MTV	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan (Live)	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 E! Fashion Emergency 7:30 Celebrity Homes 8:00 E! Behind the Scenes *Toy Story 2* 8:30 E! Mysteries & Scandals *Jerry Geisler* 9:00 E! True Hollywood Story *Brigitte Nielsen* 10:00 David Letterman Show
WED	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Saan Ka Man Naroroon 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Pwedeng-Pwede 9:00 Katapat, Fred Lim 10:30 Headlines 11:00 On Trial 11:30 Isyu 101 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6:00 Cartoon Hour 7:00 On-Line Bingo 8:00 HBO Boxing 9:00 Lotto Draw 9:15 Tapatan Walang Atrasan 10:15 National Network News 11:00 Nature Trip 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6:00 Gintong Pangarap 6:30 Transformers Original 7:00 Sabrina 7:30 Suddenly Susan 8:00 Frasier 8:30 Friends 9:00 E.R. 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Musika Atbp. 11:30 Police Academy	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Trigun 7:00 Dragonball Z 7:30 Beh Bote Nga 9:00 Codename: Verano 10:30 Front Page 11:00 Imbestigador 12:00 The 700 Club	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 May Bukas Pa 7:00 Siempre Te Amare 7:30 Maria del Cielo 8:00 Roswell 9:00 It's A Miracle 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 Wrestling 11:30 Kasangga Mo'y Langit	5:00 PBA 10:00 Subic Bay 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 PBA Moments	7:00 Fantasy Island 9:00 Gameplan 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:15 The Explorer 12:45 MTV	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 E! Fashion Emergency 7:30 Celebrity Homes 8:00 E! Behind the Scenes *End of Days* 8:30 E! Mysteries & Scandals *Jon-Erik Hexum* 9:00 E! True Hollywood Story *Bruce Jenner* 10:00 David Letterman Show
THU	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Saan Ka Man Naroroon 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Home Along da Riles 9:00 Maalaala Mo Kaya 10:30 Headlines 11:00 On Trial 11:30 Assignment 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6:00 Cartoon Hour 7:00 On-Line Bingo 8:00 PBL 9:00 Lotto Draw 10:15 National Network News 11:00 Olympic Program 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6:00 Gintong Pangarap 6:30 Transformers Original 7:00 Guinness World Records 8:00 Soldier of Fortune 9:00 Burning Zone 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Strangers 11:30 New York Undercover Year 2 12:00 The Big News	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Monster Rancher 7:00 Virtua Fighter 7:30 1 For 3 8:30 Viva Sinerama *Brando Bandido* 10:30 Front Page 11:00 Debate with Mare at Pare 12:00 700 Club 12:30 Word of Hope	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 May Bukas Pa 7:00 Siempre Te Amare 7:30 Maria del Cielo 8:00 Buffy, The Vampire Slayer 9:00 Felicity 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 Chicago Hope 11:30 Police Hour	5:30 NBA Game of the Week 8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Thursday Nights at the Movies 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 PBA Moments	6:00 MTV Non-Stop Hits 6:30 Be Seen @ MTV 7:00 Greed 7:30 Cineplex 23 *Barbara Walters' 10 Most Fascinating People* 9:30 Guide to Urban Living 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:15 Travel Time	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 E! Fashion Emergency 7:30 Celebrity Homes 8:00 E! Behind the Scenes *Deuce Bigalow* 8:30 E! Mysteries & Scandals *Mabel Normand* 9:00 E! True Hollywood Story *Claudia Jennings* 10:00 David Letterman Show
FRI	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Saan Ka Man Naroroon 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Digimon 8:00 Young Hercules 8:30 Star Cinema Presents 10:30 Headlines 11:00 On Trial 11:30 [illegible] 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6:00 Cartoon Hour 7:00 On-Line Bingo Pilipino 8:00 Street Legal 9:00 Lotto Draw 9:15 Pulso ng Masa 10:15 National Network News 11:00 The Scene 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6:00 Gintong Pangarap 6:30 Transformers Original 7:00 Sliders 8:00 The Big Night 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Friday Box Office	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Trigun 7:00 Dragonball Z 7:30 Pokemon 8:00 Fushigi Yuugi 8:30 Bubble Gang 10:00 What Went Wrong 10:30 Front Page 11:00 Emergency 12:00 700 Club	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 May Bukas Pa 7:00 Siempre Te Amare 7:30 Maria del Cielo 8:00 Malcolm in the Middle 8:30 Dharma and Greg 9:00 The Truth and Nothing But 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 TV Greats on Friday	5:00 The Color of Money 10:00 Kabayo, Karera, Karerista 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Last Fool Show	6:00 Monster By Mistake 6:30 Batman 7:00 Greed 7:30 Survivor 8:30 Snoops 9:30 Murphy Brown 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:15 [illegible] 12:00 MTV	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan (Live)	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 E! Fashion Emergency 7:30 Celebrity Homes 8:00 E! Behind the Scenes *Anna & the King* 8:30 E! Mysteries & Scandals *William Holden* 9:00 E! True Hollywood Story *Scotty Schwartz* 10:00 David Letterman Show



Overseas calls then.

10:30 a.m.
Mary? You're getting married there in the States? No!

SMART IDD now.

10:30 a.m.
Mary? You're getting married there in the States? No! Don't tell me. It must be some hip-hop guy from Harlem. Oh brother! C'mon Mary! I can dance too!

11:15 a.m.
I know! It's that cowboy from Texas that you met through your cousin Bernice. Oh brother! He'll make you shine his boots!

11:45 a.m.
I got it! It must be your boss. That rich 64 year-old bachelor! Oh brother! Don't you think he's a bit old for you?

12:00 p.m.
What? You're getting married to who? Jesus?! Oh! You're becoming a nun! Oh brother! Uh, I mean, oh sister!

SMART IDD 40¢ a minute

Don't think, just call!

Just dial 00 + Country Code + Area Code + Telephone Number. For SMART GSM celfones only. List of Countries: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guam, Hawaii, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Portugal, Singapore, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States of America, Vatican, Venezuela.

GERARD Depardieu shares Glenn Close's "lust for fur" in "102 Dalmatians."

Cruella has a new partner in crime

JUST when it seemed safe to come out of the kennel, Cruella de Vil is back and this time she's not alone. Glenn Close returns as the inimitable and evil Cruella de Vil. This time, Gerard Depardieu joins her on screen as her partner in crime, fashion designer Jean Pierre Le Pelt.

Havoc

Together they team up to wreak havoc on an unsuspecting canine world in Walt Disney Pictures' live-action comedy, "102 Dalmatians."

Three years after her dognapping escapade around London, Cruella is finally released from prison on the strict condition that she does not pursue her previous infamous career.

Initially, this does not cause any problem, and the rehabilitated Cruella or "Ella," as she prefers to be called now, seems well on her way to recovery.

However, her lust for fur eventually resurfaces, and Cruella realizes that she has to be seen upholding the conditions of her parole or risk going back to prison.

She therefore enlists old adversary and fellow fur designer Le Pelt (Depardieu) to steal the puppies for her, with the promise that they will make the coat together and thus become the toast of the fashion world.

For producer Edward S. Feldman, there was only one man who could play this role. "I never wanted to have an Englishman or an American doing a French accent. I wanted a true Frenchman and when you think of a true Frenchman, you think of Gerard Depardieu."

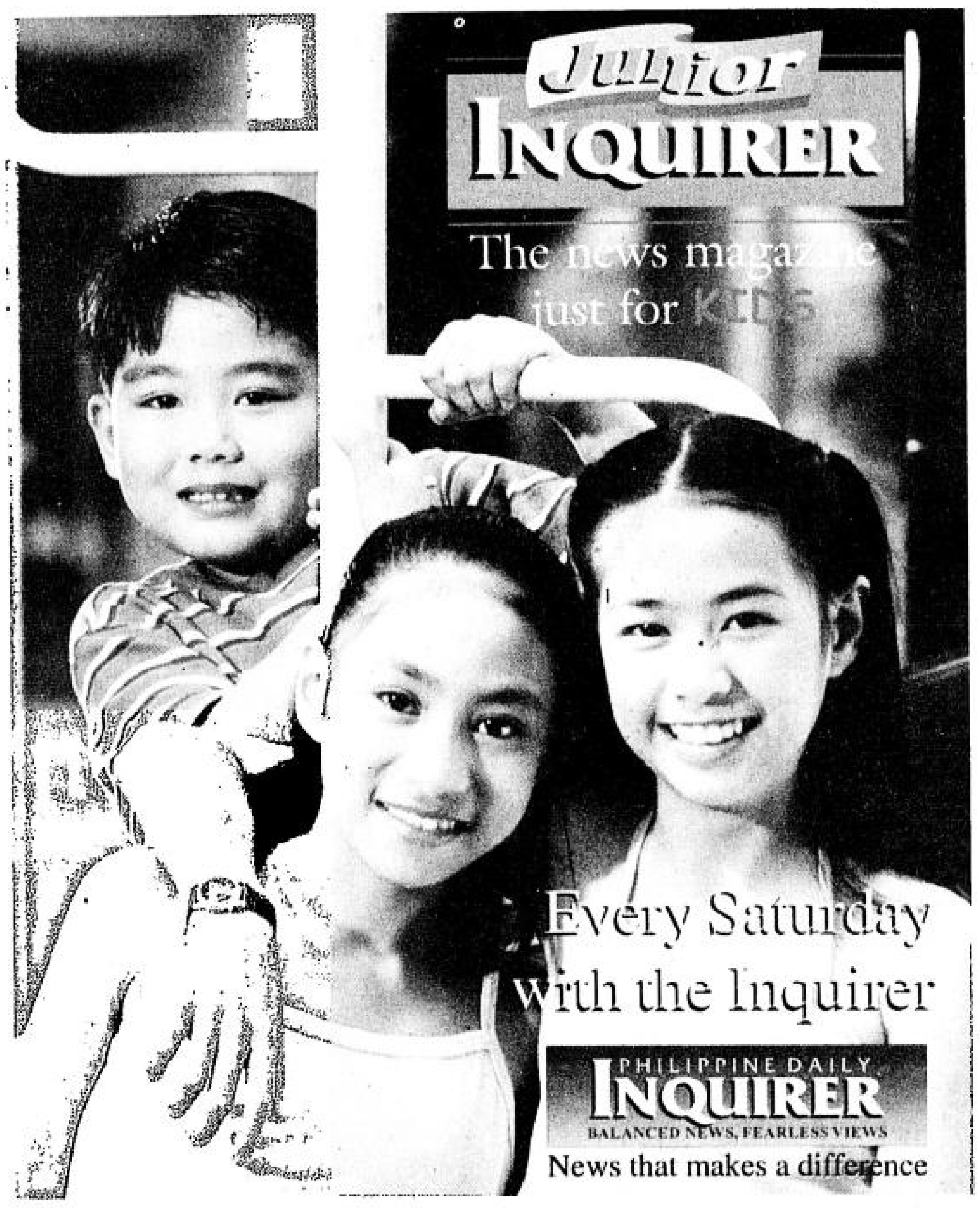
Larger than life

Working with Gerard Depardieu also appealed greatly to Glenn Close who says, "He's one of the greatest actors in the world. He's larger than life, a force of nature. Depardieu walked onto the set in the character of Le Pelt. He's open for anything and able to throw back at you anything you throw at him."

The onscreen chemistry between Close and Depardieu is undeniably electric as they push each other to a higher level.

As Depardieu himself explains, "I love working with Glenn, she thinks like a singer. She pushes a character like a singer pushes notes and when we're together what we do is like music."

Costume designer Anthony Powell also had a lot on his hands, designing outfits for both Cruella and Le Pelt. Although the biggest challenge was the outlandishly mod outfits Cruella wore, equally as challenging was the creation of Jean Pierre Le Pelt.



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Every Saturday with the Inquirer
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
News that makes a difference

The Corrs perform live in Manila

IRISH family sensations and international music superstars The Corrs are coming to paint the town red on Feb. 16 as they perform live at the Araneta Coliseum fronted by Warner Music Philippines' best boy band bet, Plus One.

Since their visit to the country in 1998, The Corrs have been working hard at staying at the top of the charts.

Track record

Their impressive track record: multi-platinum sales in six territories and gold in six more for their first album "Forgiven Not Forgotten." Platinum in 15 and gold in nine territories for their second stab, "Talk On Corners." 2.4 million copies, platinum in 11 and gold in 10 territories for their "MTV Unplugged" album.

You can spend the season of love with your idols simply by buying their latest album "In Blue," now available in special edition CDs and cassettes from any record bar.

It features previously unreleased tracks like "Love in the Milky Way" and "Looking in the Eyes of Love," as well as new versions of "No More Cry," "At Your Side," "Haste to the Wedding" and "So Young."

THE CORRS. Impressive track record in the recording field.

Raffle coupon

Upon purchase of a special edition "In Blue" CD or cassette, you will be presented with a raffle coupon. Winners will get two tickets each, but if you're really lucky, you also get to arrive at the concert in a limousine, meet The Corrs backstage and get a free dinner! PDI Lifestyle's teen section, 2BU!, is co-presenting the event.

The shooting of rare animals will remain unknown.
Unless we shoot back.
The Inquirer joins the World Wildlife Fund in the fight to save rare animals. From now on you'll be reading more and learning more about the plight of endangered species. In our crusade to save the world, the only weapon we have is your support.
INQUIRER

THEY WRITE THE SCRIPTS

New screenwriters share their traumatic experiences

By Nestor U. Torre

(Conclusion)

"SOMETHING similar happened to me," sighs another writer. "Only this time, the reason why my script wasn't filmed was because the studio wanted two big stars to be in it, but negotiations regarding their talent fees fell through.

Disheartening

A third writer pipes up: "That's a real bummer. Even if you still get paid in full, it's disheartening to waste so much of your time and effort on a project that turns out to be 'stillborn'."

"You want to listen to *my* story? When I wrote for a TV drama, the director was in a big hurry to finish the taping as fast as possible because he had a party to attend that night, so *tinuhog niya ang mga eksena*! As a result, the show was undertime by five minutes.

"He *then* laid the blame on my script and demanded that I come up with five minutes of new material on the spot! Aside from that, he shouted invectives at me in front of everybody. But everyone knew that it was *his* fault that the show was undertime!"

Commitment

"Why do some directors feel like they can get away with murder? Why do they pick on and terrorize new writers? And why does the word 'commitment' sometimes have a different meaning in show business as compared to other fields, unless you are protected by a contract?"

Final story: "It's hard to write a daily TV drama if you have another fulltime job, since you have to brainstorm for hours on the project. Something's got to give.

"*My* 'unforgettable' (translation: traumatic) experience: I wrote a script that had an ending the producer wasn't happy with, so I had to change it even while the show was already being taped.

Changes

"Next, the director asked for revisions of his own to be done on the spot, but as I was typing the changes, he told me to stop *kasi maingay ang* typewriter.

"So, I decided to go home to do the changes there—but when I got back to the taping, the problem scenes had already been shot!"

Frustrating? You bet. So, why don't new writers just throw in the towel?

A new screenwriter explains: "It's the joy of writing, of seeing your work onscreen—and the fact that you know that it will be seen by so many people. All that outweighs the pain and the frustration. In the end, the frustrating experiences even become the spice that makes your job all the more eventful!"

"To my mind," says another young writer, "writing isn't work because I enjoy it so much, despite the problems involved. Even if I write continuously until 5 a.m., I really don't mind!"

Fringe benefits

Other "fringe benefits":

"After you do your first script and it's being shot, people point to you and say, *'Siya yung* writer'—*ang sarap ng* feeling!"

"One time, I met somebody and he said, 'Your name sounds familiar.' *Yun pala*, he had seen my name on a movie credit."

"*Natutuwa ang mga magulang ko! Kilala na kami sa probinsiya! Nai*-impress *ang tao. Tanong nila, 'Kailan ang susunod mong* movie?'"

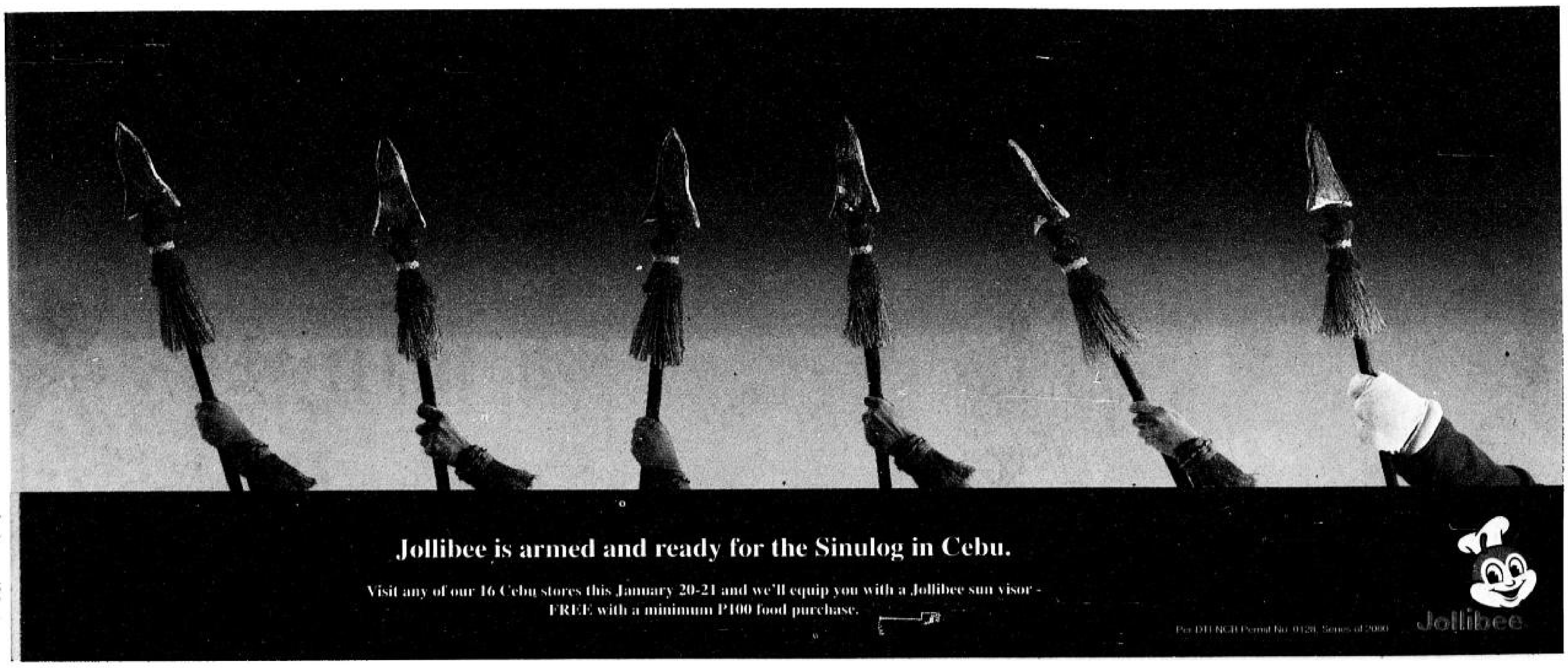
"It's very gratifying to see your comedy movie being patronized by entire families, all of them laughing heartily inside the moviehouse. And there are long lines outside because it's SRO in the theater—what a thrill that is!"

Big stars

"*Ako naman*, there was a time that I had to give up my regular job because *nagkasabay ang dalawang* project *ko*, both of them with big stars in the lead roles. That's when I realized, *'Uy,* show biz *na ako*!' I would laugh at myself and feel embarrassed when the people at home asked me where I was going, and I would tell them, *may* meeting *ako* with this or that big star or director. It was surreal!"

So, for these and other reasons, the new screenwriters are still in there, fighting for their place in the movie firmament, despite the various "monsters" they encounter.

If they continue to stick to their guns, they can establish themselves as reliable talents in the industry, and help other newcomers enter the field—hopefully, with fewer traumas to suffer.



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Per DTI NCR Permit No. 0128, Series of 2000

Jollibee

April Boy Regino topbills new fantasy-comedy movie

By Remy M. Umerez

REGINO admits he was nervous when he did a kissing scene with his leading lady, Carmina Villaroel.

RECORDING artist-turned-movie star April Boy Regino grew up on the music of Sharon Cuneta. He idolized her and hoped that, one day, the megastar would record one of his compositions.

Birthday bash

"In fact, I wrote a song especially for her. I remember going to the television station to hand the demo tape personally to Shawie, *pero palagi akong hinaharang ni* Angge. It took me quite a long time before I met her in person. I was already a recording artist and was invited to her birthday bash.

"*Wala nang humarang sa akin at noon ko napatunayang super-bait pala si* Sharon. *Para na ring natupad ang* dream *ko na awitin niya ang aking* composition because we did a duet.

"She promised to wax one of my compositions as soon as she recorded a Tagalog album. Absolutely, you can count on me as a die-hard Sharonian," he grins.

The song April Boy wrote for Sharon was "Laging Magkapiling," which his mother later decided to produce herself. Ivory Records took notice of the hit song and signed April Boy to a contract. The song was instrumental to the success April Boy is reaping now.

The magic of music for the masses has proven to be April Boy Regino's passport to success. From "country" hit songs like "Paano ang Puso Ko" to "Di Ko Kayang Tanggapin," April Boy has charmed a whole nation of believers. His fan base is composed mostly of children and young adults.

Seven albums

Seven years in show business have produced seven albums for April Boy, whose birthday falls on April 9. All have been certified from gold to triple platinum by PARI.

His seventh is the newly released "Diary," a compilation of classic English songs ("The Great Pretender," "You Are My Destiny," "Help," "What Am I Living For," "The Diary" and "Help Me Make It Through the Night").

This same formula for success has been translated to the movies, with last year's "Di Ko Kayang Tanggapin."

April Boy now follows up his first movie with "Super Idol." He portrays a *probinsiyano* with magical powers bestowed upon him by a mysterious goldsmith called Pandoy, played by Joey de Leon.

April Boy says he felt nervous while shooting his kissing scene with his leading lady, Carmina Villaroel, admitting he doesn't really know how to kiss.

Passion

"*Ang buong akala ko kasi, sa pisngi lang. Yun pala sa* lips, and *direk* Willy Milan wanted me to show some passion! On the first take, I was looking at the camera, so *Direk* ordered a reshoot. *Hindi rin niya nagustuhan dahil kulang daw sa* feeling. Only on the third take was he satisfied," he blushes.

Negative criticism doesn't bother April Boy, even from people who say that he isn't star material and should limit himself only to singing.

"I respect their opinion. But my main concern is to provide movie entertainment for my fans in the same way that my songs have brought them joy," April Boy says.

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where spectacular activities await you.

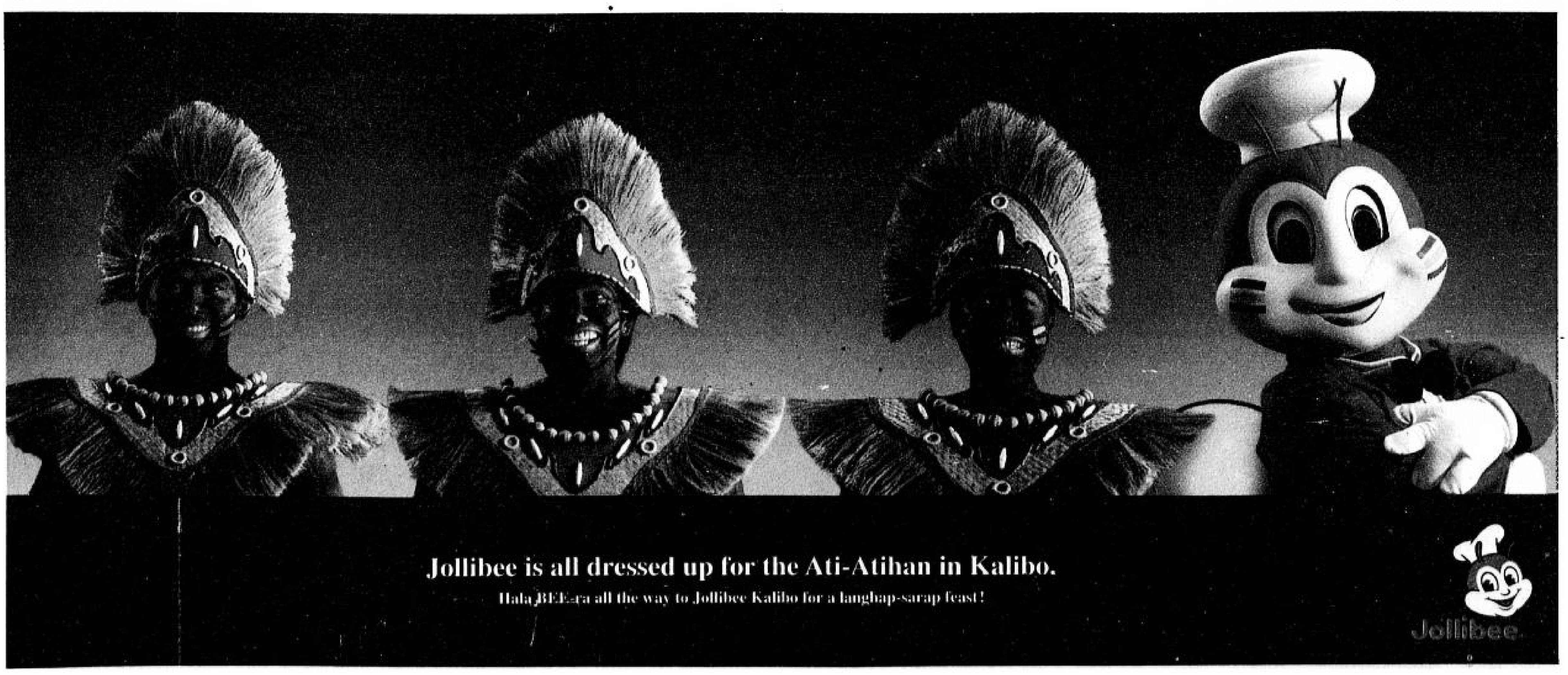
Dragon & Lion Dance	January 21 Rustan's Makati January 23 Rustan's Shangri-La Plaza	3:00 PM
Snake's Fortune Feng Shui, destiny & more... *From now until January 21, a minimum purchase of P3,000.00 from the Home Department, entitles you to a FREE twenty minute Feng Shui reading by Prof. Charlie Chao. *STRICTLY ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS.*	January 18 Rustan's Makati January 19 Rustan's Shangri-La Plaza January 20 Rustan's Makati January 21 Rustan's Shangri-La Plaza	11:00 - 2:00 PM and 3:00 - 6:00 PM
Free Snake's Hong Bao of Fortune	Chinese Shop, all Metro Manila branches	

At Rustan's, every change of season deserves a celebration.

See Posters for Details.

Rustan's

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0037 Series of 2001



Jollibee is all dressed up for the Ati-Atihan in Kalibo.
Hala BEE-ra all the way to Jollibee Kalibo for a langhap-sarap feast!
Jollibee

Calista Flockhart adopts baby boy

FLOCKHART. Overjoyed.

LOS Angeles—Actress Calista Flockhart, who stars as a lovelorn lawyer on the popular Fox television show "Ally MacBeal," has adopted a baby boy, but plans to keep working and still wants to experience her own pregnancy in the future, she said in a statement issued recently.

Statement

"I have always wanted to adopt a child and I am overjoyed that I have been blessed with a beautiful and healthy son," Flockhart, 36, said in the statement issued after a tabloid newspaper published photos of her carrying an infant.

"I'm completely enchanted and awestruck," she said. "I feel extremely fortunate and grateful that I work for such a supportive company that offers a wonderful child-care facility, enabling me to spend a lot of time with my son while I'm working."

Photographs published Jan. 12, in the National Enquirer tabloid, which carried a story about the adoption, showed Flockhart carrying an infant bundled in a baby blanket and what appeared to be a diaper bag slung over her shoulder.

The statement from her publicist said that while the actress "intends to keep her new family life very private, she has revealed that she plans on giving birth someday and may adopt another child."

Arrival

According to the Enquirer, Flockhart was present in the delivery room for the arrival of her adopted son, who was born in the early hours of New Year's Day at a San Diego hospital. The biological mother is a medical technician who already has four children, the tabloid said.

Hospital staff reportedly were unaware of the identity of the adoptive mother in the delivery room until the actress removed her surgical mask moments after the baby was born, stunning the delivery room team.

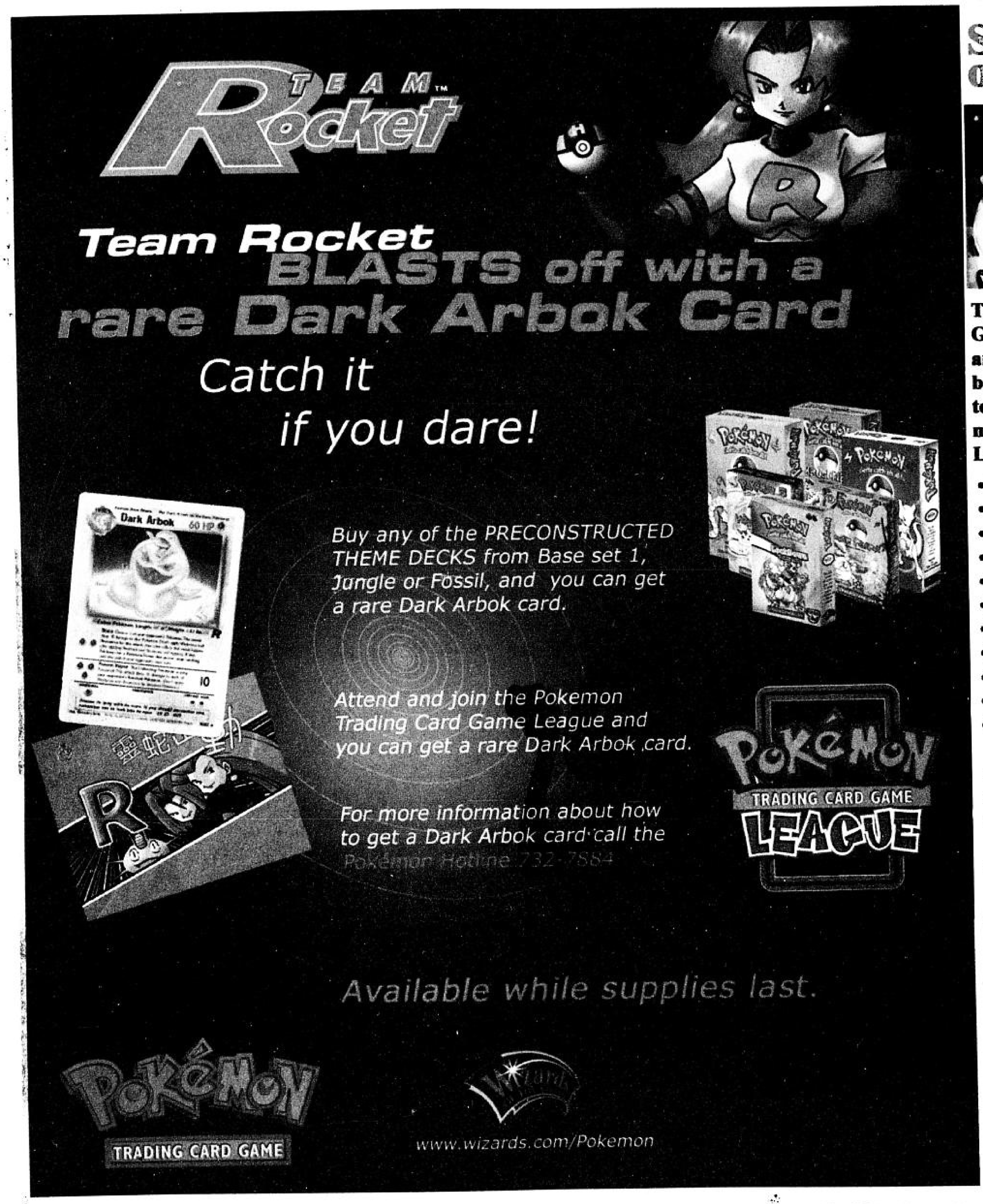
According to the Enquirer, nurses handed the infant to Flockhart, who said, "Happy New Year, my darling baby," then cradled the child for about two hours in an adjoining lounge.

Flockhart was quoted in a January 1999 interview as saying that she wanted "to have a family—and I don't even have a man in my life."

"McBeal" spokeswoman, Melissa Kates, declined to confirm published accounts of the baby's birth or adoption, but said, "We are very aware of the National Enquirer story, and I am not aware that anything is untrue."

"Ally McBeal" is currently in its fourth season. A publicist for the show said no changes are anticipated in the series or its production schedule as a result of the adoption.

Reuters



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- Toys will be toys Robinsons Manila
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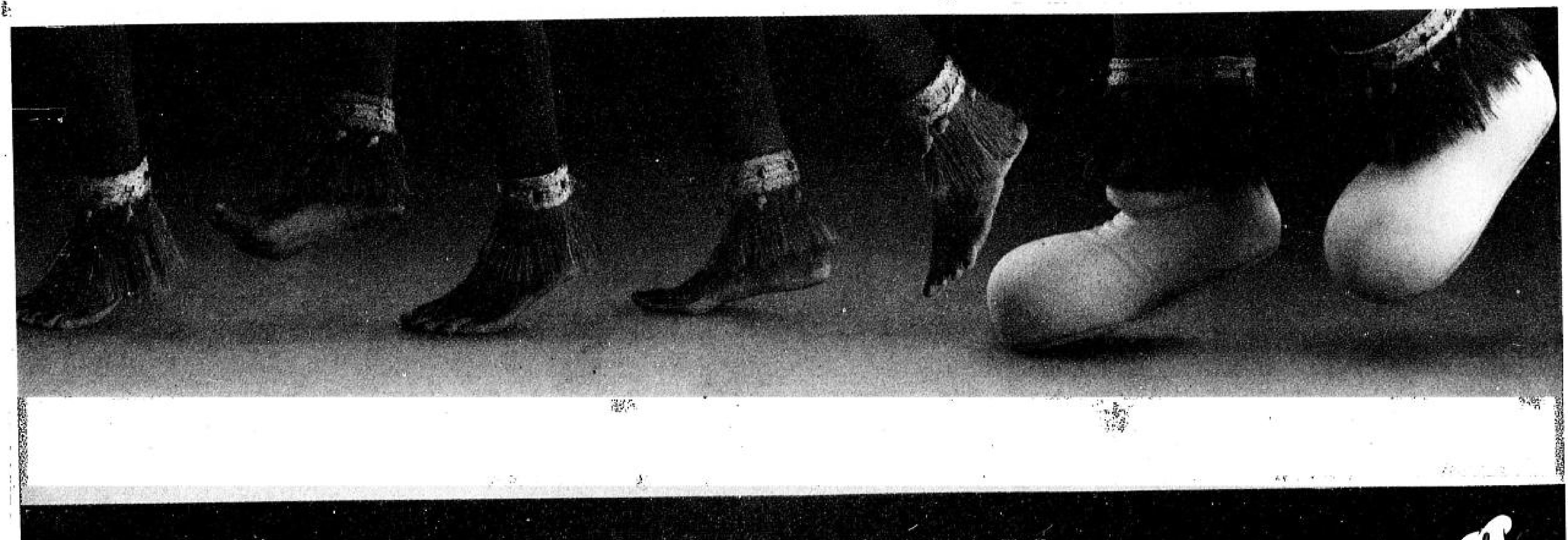
Pokémon TRADING CARD GAME LEAGUE



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   d. Sign on the dotted line and you're off!
   e. You will receive a text confirmation of your transaction.

   Non face-to-face (remote) Purchase
   a. Call the store to order items, advise the order taker that you will be paying through SMART Money MasterCard.
   b. Give the order taker your 12-digit MCOM number.
   c. If transaction is validated, a payment request message is sent to your celfone.
   d. To accept payment request, press ACCEPT, key in your W-PIN and press OK. To cancel the transaction, click on REJECT.
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   d. Select a preset amount and press OK.
   e. Key in your W-PIN and press OK.
   f. The SMART Money MasterCard system verifies your W-PIN, account status, and SMART Money MasterCard funds. If details are validated, your SMART Money MasterCard account will then be debited and the value is transferred to the recipient.
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Per DTI-NCR permit # 0018, Series of 2001.

Ces Quesada finds serenity in her rustic hideaway

By Bibsy M. Carballo

TO most of the followers of the long-running TV sitcom "Home Along Da Riles," one of its distinct characters is Bridge portrayed by Ces Quesada.

Victim of stereotyping

Like many others in the entertainment world, Ces has been a victim of stereotyping as a convenient tool of show business in classifying its talents.

Not that she is loudly protesting. Her tag as comedienne extraordinaire has provided her with enough work other than on "Home Along" and "G-Mik" in the recent past, both on ABS-CBN.

"But I do have another life,"" she says, as wife to documentary director and agriculturist Tito Quesada, mother to six-year-old Isabel, candlemaker in one of her fledgling business ventures, scriptwriter of "Richard Loves Lucy," corporate host for events and launchings, theater actress, and dramatic actress in the German production, "Manila," together with Ana Capri in 1999.

And recently, Ces has come to be known by friends as mistress of a rustic hideaway up the Sierra Madre in Paete, Laguna.

The place has served in the past year as venue for get-togethers, project brainstormings and retreats for colleagues eager to escape from the stress and tension of everyday city life.

Overnight stay

Friends Adriana Agcaoili, Ronnie Lazaro and Dwight Gaston who have experienced an overnight stay in Ces and Tito's mountain retreat, have nothing but effusive words about the experience.

"After the hike up the mountain, you are more than ready to partake of the delicious food they always seem to have," says Adriana, theater actress, commercial model and writer. "And I just adore the spring-water bath they offer."

Movie-TV-theater actor Ronnie Lazaro says, "The best thing about it is that it's really quite near Manila, and yet when you're up there you feel totally cut off from civilization, although they have great amenities."

And scriptwriter, set and costume designer Dwight Gaston says that for him the best things are "the view, the food, the sketching, the serenity and the solitude of nature."

CES with Adriana Agacaoili relaxing in a native hammock.

EXTERIOR of the mountain home with (from left), Tito Quesada, Ces, Adriana and Dwight Gaston.

Construction of the mountain house started when Tito, who was dipping his fingers into agriculture for the first time just over a year ago, felt the need to stay over on the farm in the mountains rather than go home to the family house in town.

The farmland with its *lanzones* trees dates back to 1935 when his grandfather, who was then mayor of Paete, tended to it. We are told that, during the war, the area around the farm served as the hideout of the Quesada family from the Japanese forces.

Abandoned

The farm was abandoned upon the death of Tito's grandfather, who was killed by the Huks, until 1999, when Tito decided to try his hand at it.

"Building the house was not difficult at all," says Tito, "since old trees that had to be cleared to make way for new ones provided the lumber for the house." All the material except for the roofing and the cement came from the forest.

The two-story bamboo house with a veranda running along two sides on the second floor is large enough to accommodate 10 to 15 persons at one time. Slowly, amenities were added, like running water piped in from a mountain spring that supplies water not only for cooking and drinking, but also for toilet facilities.

CES emerges refreshed after her spring-water bath.

It is always cool up in the mountains, and the farmhouse provides a great view of Laguna de Bay, which has been the subject of many watercolors Gaston has done on his visits there. The farm consists of some 700 *lanzones* trees, 600 *rambutan* trees, and some lychees, durian and mangosteen.

The best meals we have had have been of fresh paco salad picked from the ground, with fresh goat cheese and vinaigrette dressing; fresh fish from town grilled over coals; cream of mushroom soup, and the best cappuccino this side of Starbucks, prepared by Tito, who is a coffee connoisseur.

First visit

On our first visit, the path leading to the farmhouse had not yet been graded and we had to practically roll down the route and pant up the hill for some 20 minutes. On our next visit, the Quesadas had added a hanging bamboo bridge and bamboo railings all along the path that made the approach much more accessible.

We are told that electricity may soon come, but we tell Ces and Tito that we wish it wouldn't come *that* soon. There is something about the ambiance of evenings up in the mountains with just a kerosene lamp providing enough light for reading, with glasses of wine and small talk among friends, that electricity would completely destroy.

Being a farmer's wife part of the time has given Ces the breather most stressed-out city dwellers would give their right arms for. She takes advantage of this hideout at least once a week when she visits the hillside farm, sometimes bringing along her daughter and friends.

During those times, the quiet of the forest rings with the shrieks of a child at play, the strumming of a guitar, and the voices of men and women taking in the cool of the evening and enjoying the atmosphere, so far away from the hustle and bustle of a studio set.

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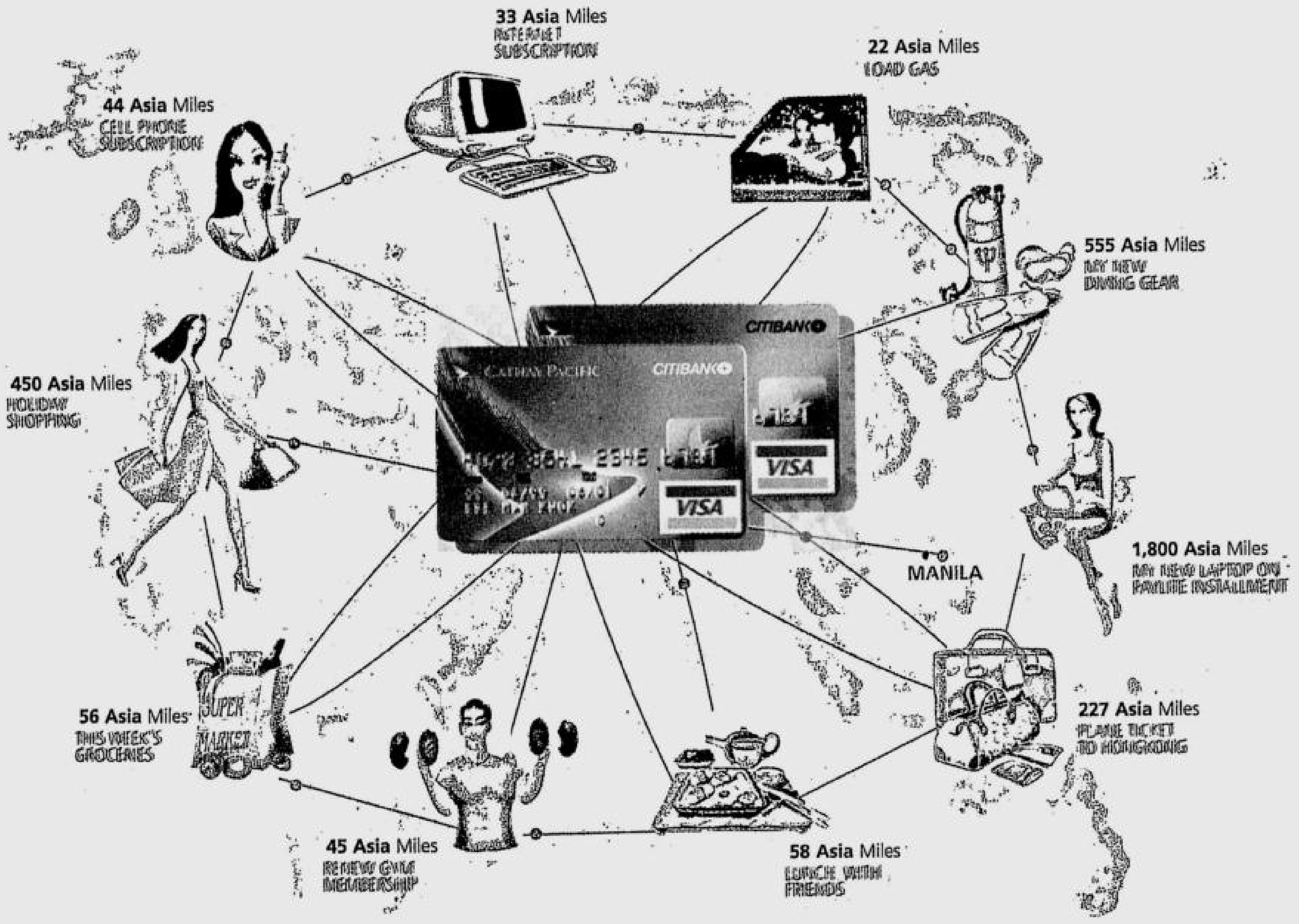

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Junior Inquirer

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20, 2001 ◆ 12 PAGES ◆ VOLUME 5, NUMBER 15

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WHAT'S INSIDE:

- Wanna write for JI? Page 3
- Your Poetry Page 7
- Atomo & Weboy meet mystery kids Page 10
- Shirley's Pets Page 12

...And the animals loved them back

Studes from Southridge and St. Theresa's College win search for Animal Lover of the Year 2000

TURTLES and tarsiers would weep for joy if they could see what you kids have done. The Philippine eagles, tamaraws and all the other animals who have been hunted and who have lost their homes would join them too. Yup, those of you who took part in the search for the Animal Lover of the Year 2000 did such a great job, we feel real happy for the animals and we are also so proud of you.

Big success

More than 400 kids joined this contest hatched by human "animal-pals" from the Animal Planet cable channel and World Wildlife Fund-Philippines.

Out of the hundreds of entries received, 23 creature-hugging

...And/p.4

WORLD SCOPE

Epiphany feast

A MAN holds a giant lollipop during a parade on Jan. 5 the eve of the Epiphany feast day. The parade is held for children who receive their Christmas presents on the 6th day of January in the Spanish traditional feast of "Reyes" or Kings Day. **AP**

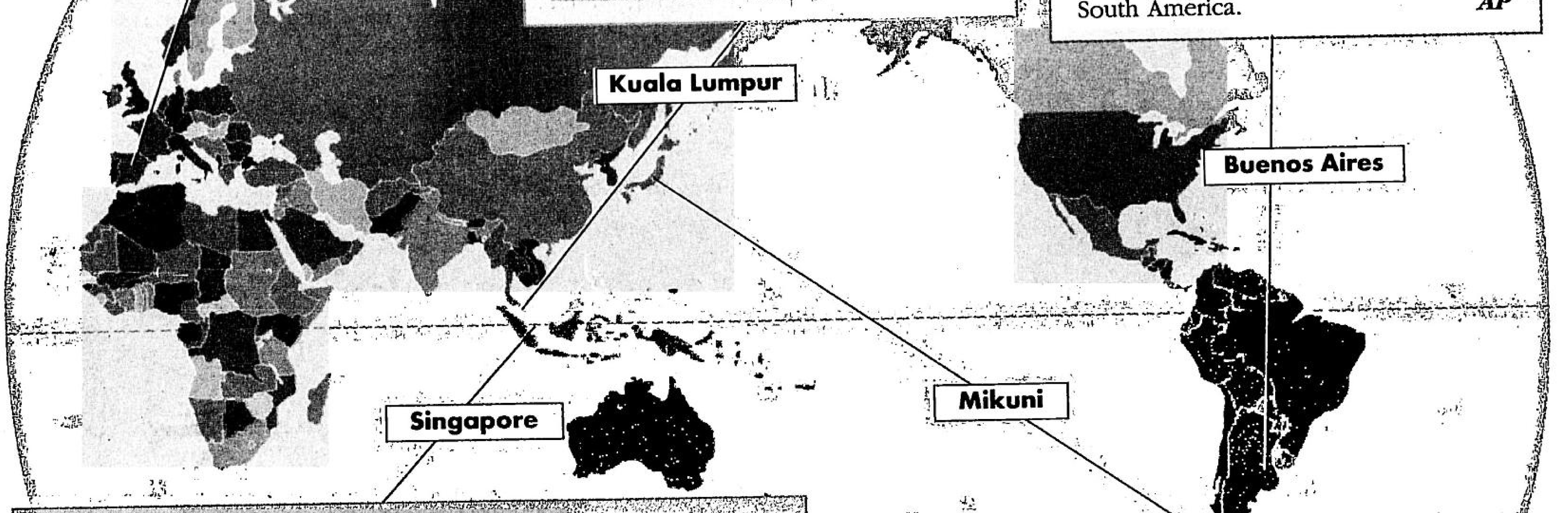
Kung Hei Fat Choy!

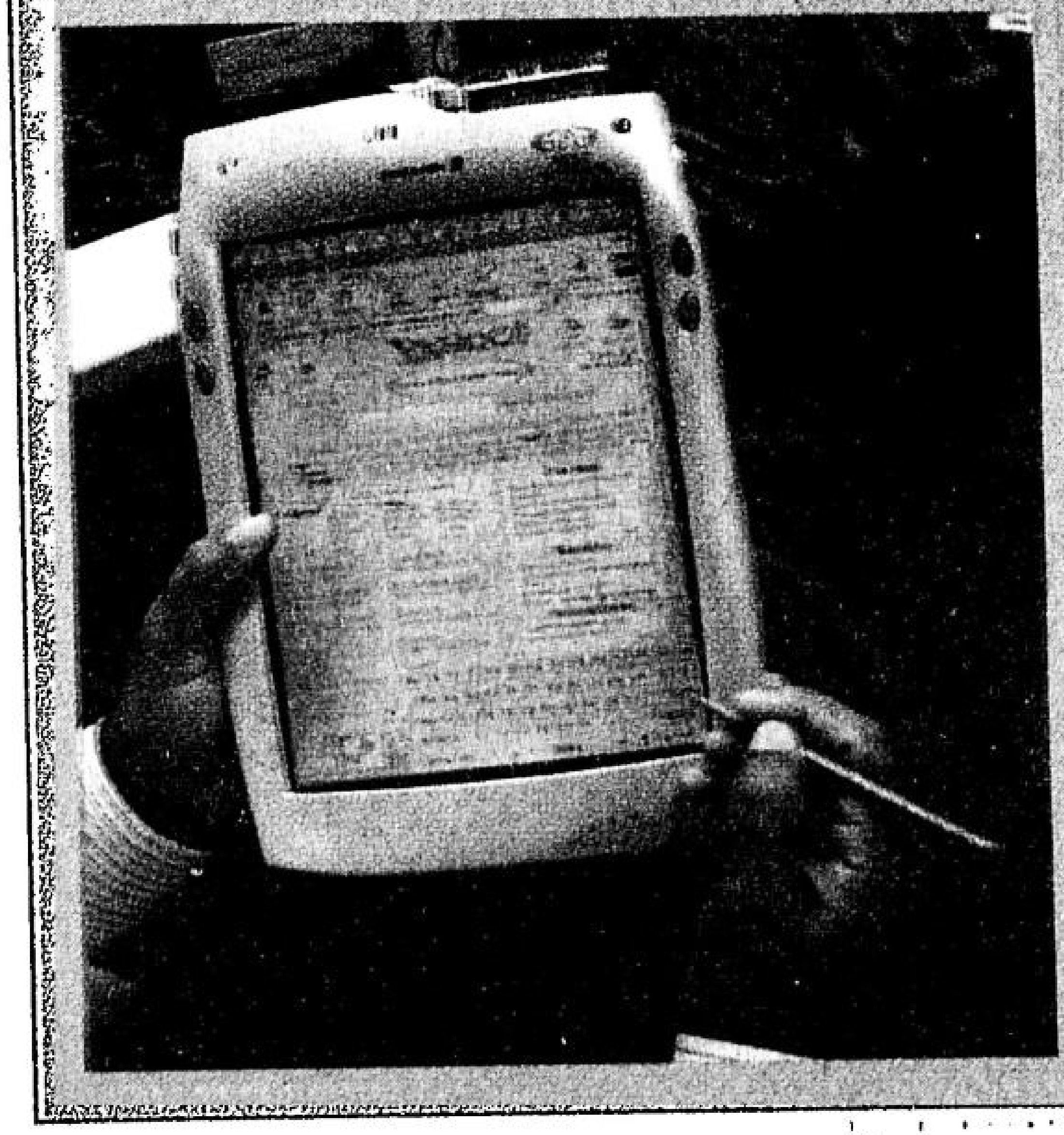
CHECK out these outfits for Chinese New Year. Two Malaysian children display traditional Chinese Kung Fu suits on the stage during a fashion show organized by a Chinatown classic fashion house at a shopping mall in this city. Chinese New Year falls on a Thursday, Jan. 24. **AP**

Not there!

G. C. B. A.
PELIGRO
PROHIBIDO
BAÑARSE

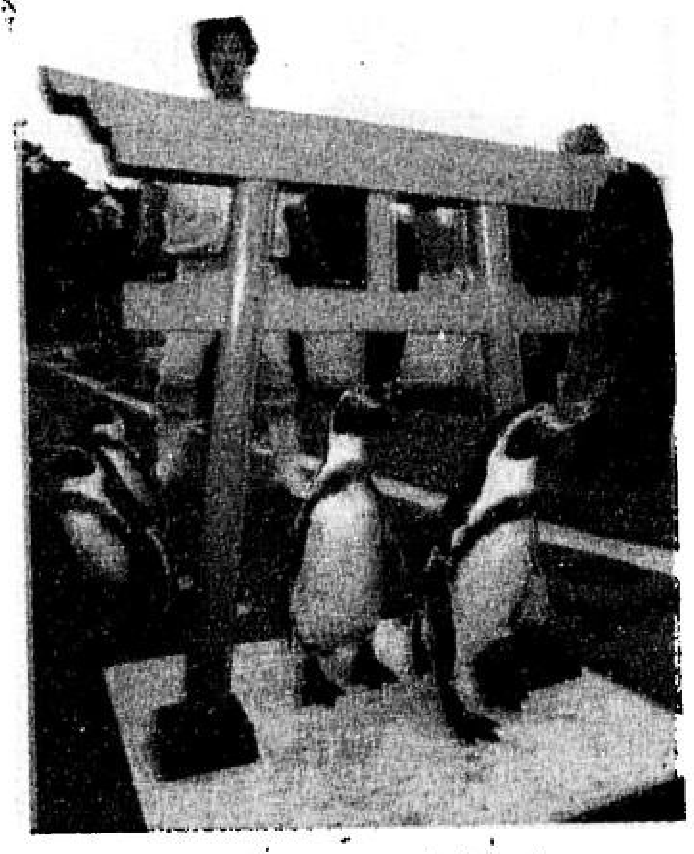
REMINDS you of the Pasig River, doesn't it? Argentinean children ignore a "no bathing" sign and play in the polluted waters of the River Plate. Why? Well, it was supposedly so hot that hundreds and possibly thousands of people sought relief from a heat wave by risking a dunk in one of the dirtiest stretches of river in South America. **AP**





Not a laptop

AT THE CENTRE for Wireless Communications, the newly developed handheld computer, the DelphiPad, is fiddled with by a visitor. Singapore researchers have developed, what they believed, is the world's first big screen mobile handheld device which offers a wireless connection to the Internet. **AP**



Pious penguins?

PENGUINS go through a makeshift miniature gate to a Shinto shrine, at an aquarium in this town in northwestern Japan. Following the Japanese tradition of visiting shrines on New Year's Day, 11 trained Humboldt penguins worship at the temporary set shrine three times a day to attract visitors to the aquarium during New Year's holiday. **AP**

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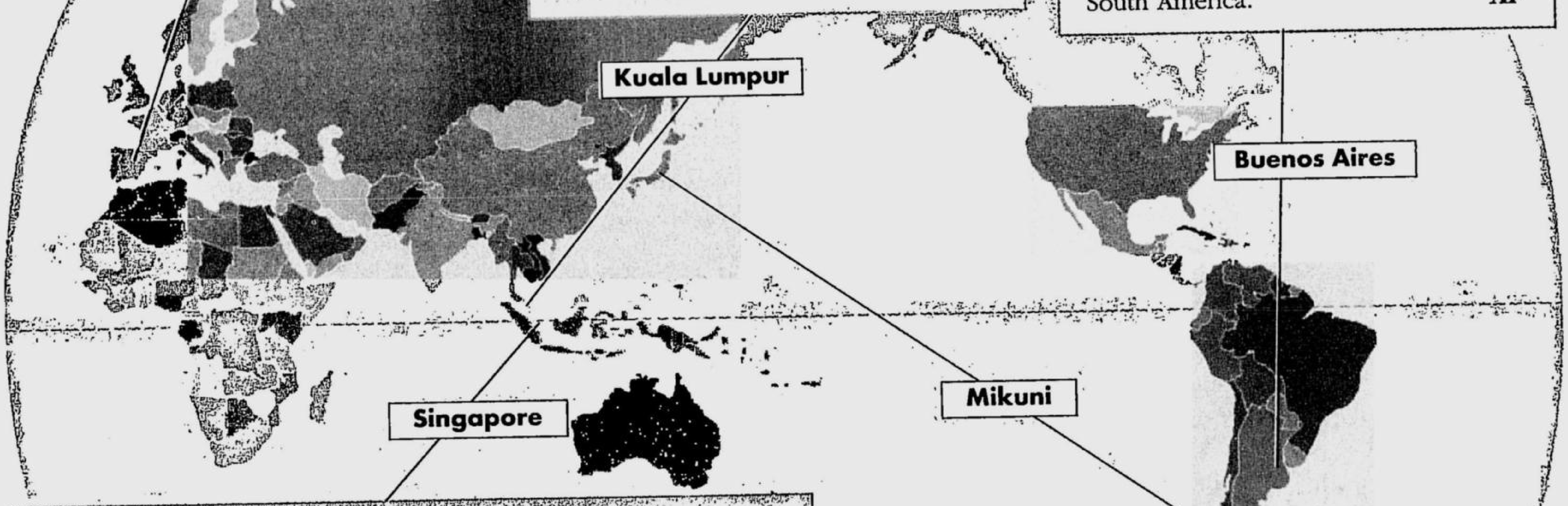

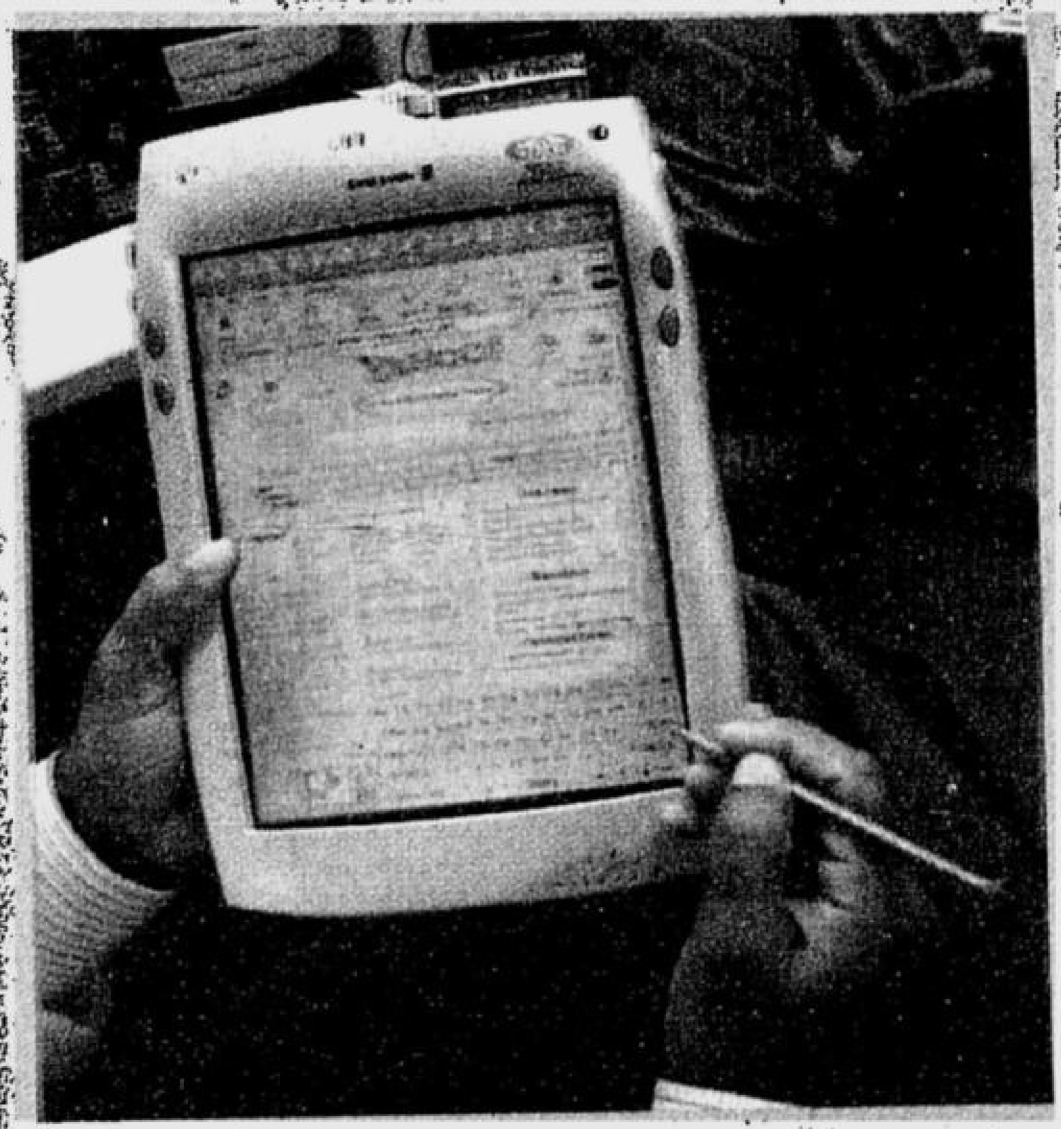

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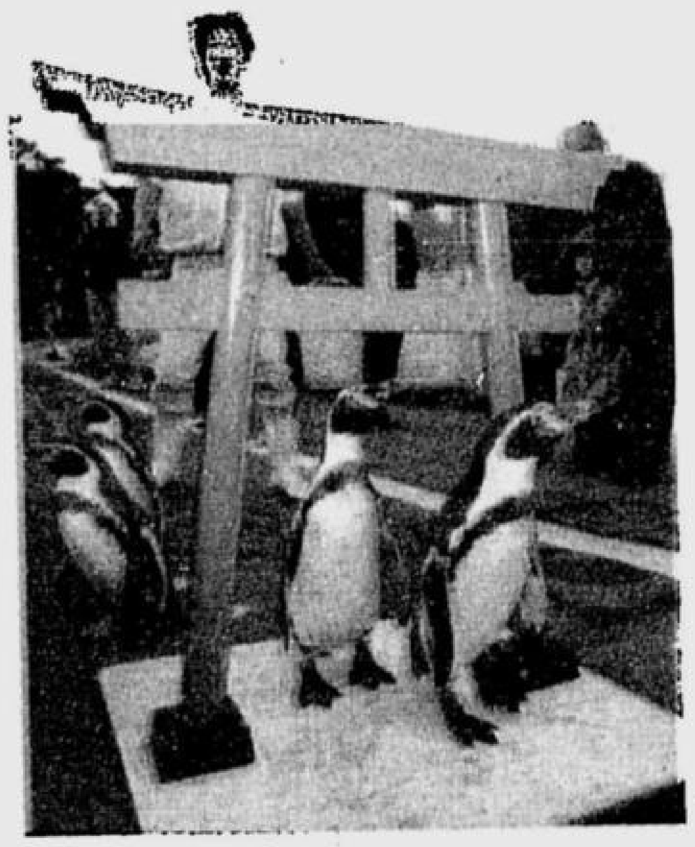

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AP

By Marlet D. Salazar

Got something for Out There?
Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax numbers are 897-4793 up to 94. Don't forget to include your contact numbers and addresses.

Activities

NEW BOOK. Wanna attend a book launch? Today, Adarna House is launching "Abot Mo Ba ang Tainga Mo?" by Heidi Emily Eusebio-Abad. That's 3 p.m. at Pediahouse 1, 81 Rosa Alvero St., Loyola Heights, Quezon City. The new storybook is about Filipino folk beliefs and features clay artworks by JI art contributor Jose Miguel "Jomike" Tejido. Check it out!

Exhibit

ASIAN KIDS ART. Check out the masterpieces of the 1999 Grand Prix winners of the Mitsubishi Impression Gallery—Festival of Asian Children's Art at the Cultural Center of the Philippines. Winning entries were selected from 22 countries in the Asian regions including the Philippines. Sponsored by the Department of Education Culture and Sports, the exhibit runs until Feb. 11 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the 2/F Lobby of the Cultural Center of the Philippines in Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. Admission is free!

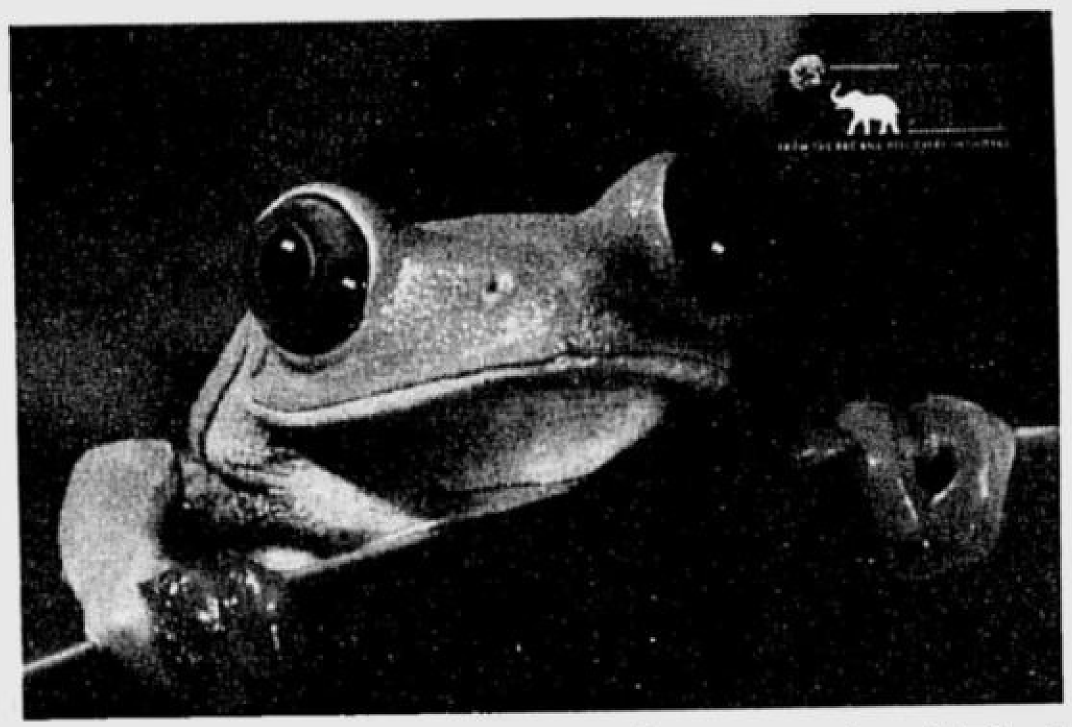
Contest

POSTER DESIGN. The Philippine Board on Books for Young People is now accepting design proposals for the 2001 National Children's Book Day poster. The slogan is. "Aklat Ko, Mahal Ko." For important details, call up 372-3548 or 49. The PBBY office is located at 73-A Scout Limbaga St. Barangay Laging Handa, Quezon City.

Cable Picks

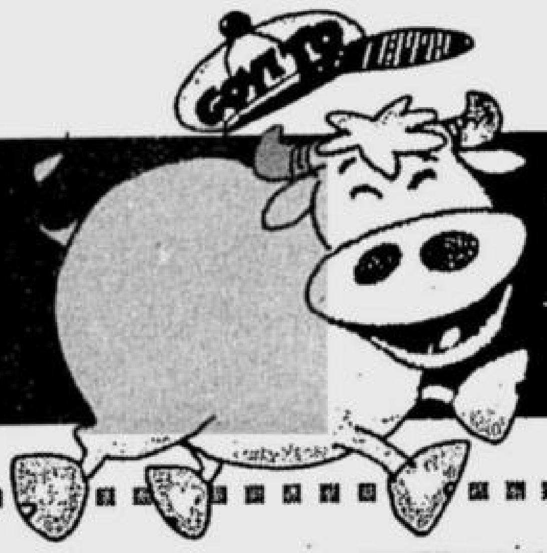
SSSNAKES. Come face to face with the world's most venomous snakes in National Geographic Channel's "Venom." Tonight at 7 p.m.

AMAZING ANIMALS. What is it about a frog's skin that makes it so crucial to environmental and scientific research? And what makes a snake perfect for space explorations?! This February, viewers learn the surprising facts about animals that crawl on the ground and fly through the sky in the premier episodes of "The Whole Story" which airs every Sunday at 6 p.m. on Animal Planet.



A RED-EYED tree frog perches on a leaf. Find out more about their importance in scientific research in "The Whole Story."

TAMED & TRAINED. Horses, dogs, bears and even insects have risen above their fellow critters with unbelievable abilities to excel in areas that include, performing, bowling, jumping through hoops to some domestic chores. Every Thursday this February, Animal Planet's "Tamed and Trained Thursday" airs at 7:30 p.m.



Wanna be a JI correspondent?

WRITE an essay about your most amazing, weirdest, strangest daydream and send it to us on or before **March 5.**

Don't forget to include a piece of paper that has your name, age, address, contact number, school, e-mail address and parents' or guardian's names. Submit your essays typewritten and double-spaced on short bond paper. Mail it to:

I wanna be a JI correspondent!
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1263 Makati City

Big eyes down South

South Africa is building a giant telescope

THOUGH the desolate hill where South Africa is building a new giant telescope is hundreds of miles away, Hartmut Winkler hopes the project will attract more students to his science classes.

"It's a project which could sort of excite the public at large about science," said Winkler, a physics professor at Vista University's Soweto campus. "Astronomy is an easy road into science."

The country's science programs are desperately in need of excitement.

South African schoolchildren placed last in math and science, according to a recently released global study. The South African science score was less than half the test average.

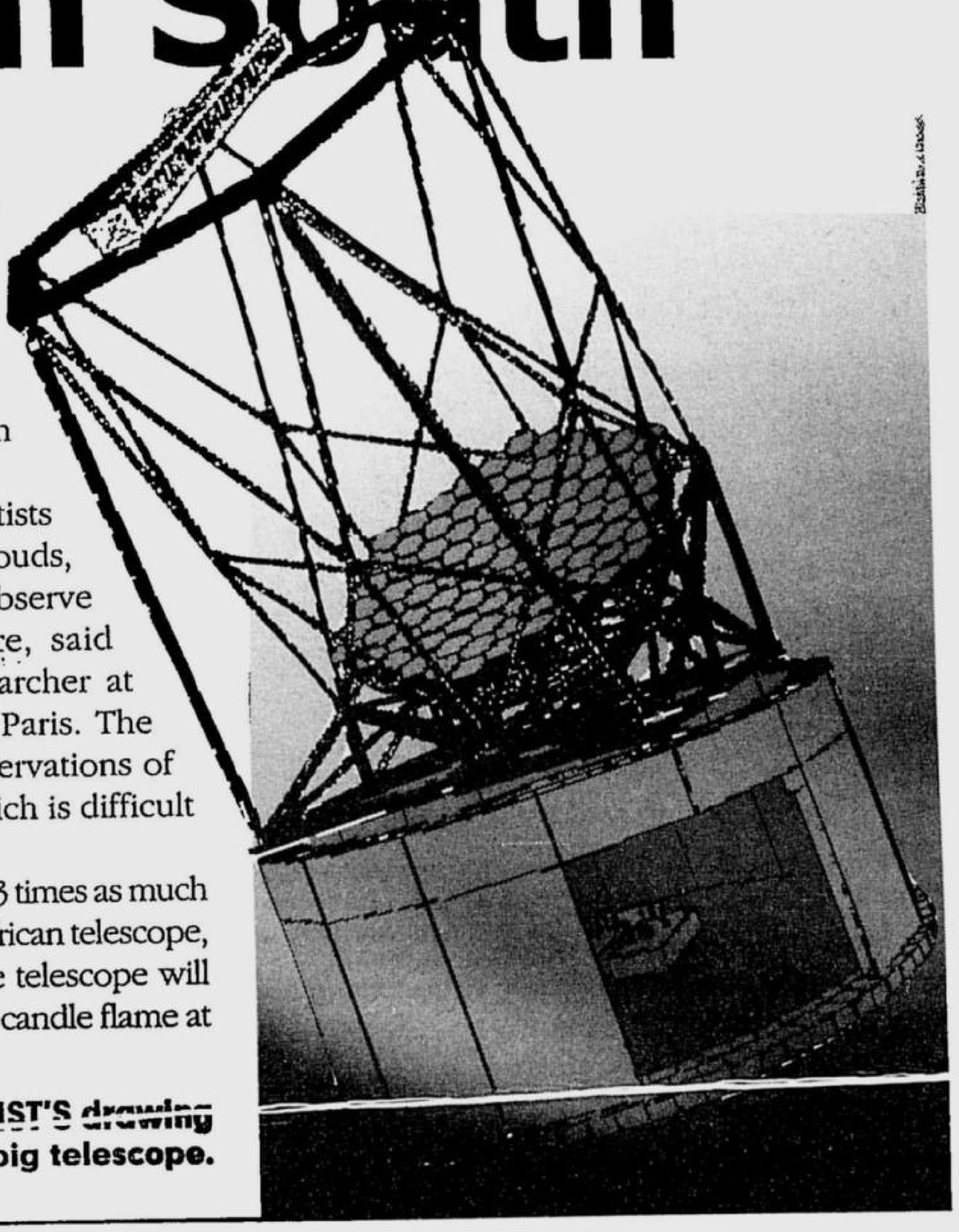
"There's a need to push science as a whole, and just teaching people through book work won't be the way to do it. We need something more exciting, like astronomy," Winkler said.

The South African Large Telescope, to be built in four to five years, will help scientists study the formation of the universe.

With an effective aperture of 11 yards, it initially will tie as the world's largest optical telescope with the twin Keck telescopes in Hawaii. Plans are under way for larger telescopes in the northern hemisphere.

The telescope will give scientists a better view of the Magellanic Clouds, galaxies that are impossible to observe from the Northern Hemisphere, said Michael Dennefeld, and a researcher at the Institute of Astrophysics in Paris. The telescope will also improve observations of the center of the Milky Way, which is difficult to view from the north.

The new telescope will gather 23 times as much light as the largest existing South African telescope, which has a 2.09-yard mirror. The telescope will be able to record light as faint as a candle flame at the distance of the moon. ***AP***



AN ARTIST'S drawing of the planned big telescope.

...And the animals loved them back

(from page 1)

finalists were chosen in the category for kids 6-9 years old while 17 made it to the category for kids 10-12 years old.

The finalists were then given around a month to complete five different projects that would show just how big an animal lover they were, and how creative too.

For example, the 6-9 group had to draw and color their favorite Philippine animals—as wild as wildlife can be—while those in the 10-12 group had to write a poem or song about three animals found only in our country.

All the finalists, though, had to do research on certain endangered animals in the Philippines and come up with suggestions on how to protect them. They also had to make a model of a Philippine animal out of only recycled materials.

Oh, and the model had to fit into a shoebox. Can you imagine what would happen if every single one of them wanted to create life-size replicas of. . .say. . .whale sharks?!

The most loving of all

Many really good projects were submitted but only one kid in each category would be named the most loving animal lover of all.

The first Animal Lover of the Year awardee is 9-year-old Mark Christian Ilano of Southridge School. Mark submitted the most eye-catching projects among all the finalists because his essays and drawings were all neatly mounted on cardboard and decorated with dried leaves and colored string.

He also made a papier-mâché tarsier covered in moss with paws and a tail made of bits of wire. Snug in a shoebox, Mark's tarsier looked like a cuddly green teddy bear.

The other winner is 11-year-old Nathania Yupangco, a fifth-grader at St. Theresa's College in Quezon City. Nathania told us that she joined the contest "because animals are children of God too. They're also my friends."

She says her favorite animal is the *pawikan*, "It's old and it looks more experienced so it needs more respect." Nathania's pretty model of a *pawikan*, made of clay and a coconut-shell painted green and yellow, shows just how much she admires the giant turtle.

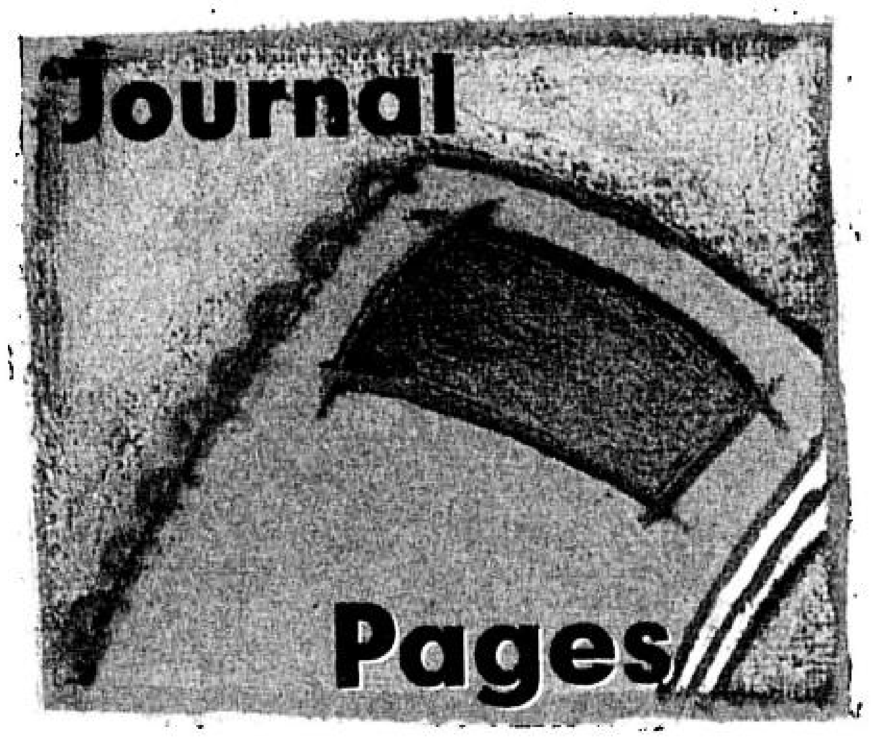
Congrats Snooper!

Both Nathania and Mark won a three-night Cebu-Bohol Eco Tour for their families as well as a trophy and a host of goodies from Animal Planet, Bookmark, Papemelroti, and the Animal House veterinary clinic.

The other finalists also automatically won consolation prizes. Many of them are from Southridge and St. Bridget School while the others are from Philippine Cultural High School, the University of the Philippines Integrated School, De La Salle-Zobel, Ateneo, Assumption (Makati), Malabon Elementary School and the Bible Baptist Learning Center in Isabela.

Going over the list of winners, we also happened to notice a very familiar name. JI Snooper Nico Miguel N. Garcia was one of the finalists in the 10-12-year-old category. Yey, Nico! Here's wishing all you kids the best, and hoping that other kids will care about the earth and the creatures we share it with as much as you do.

Christine C. Rivero

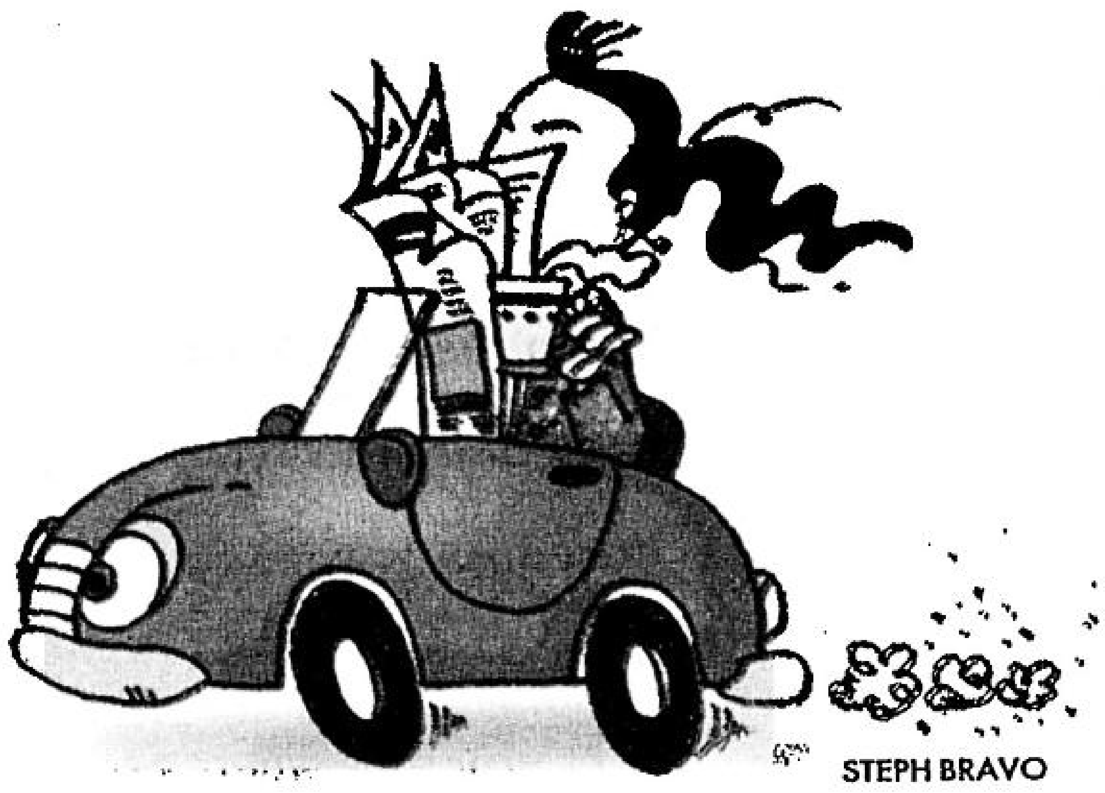


An Invention

BY REGINA DE LUNA
GRADE 5
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL MANILA

IF I COULD invent something, I would invent a car that could drive itself. Personally I think that would be useful because these days people are doing so many other things while driving. Frankly, that's not very safe.

My invention can do a multitude of things. All passengers have to do is type in their destination and the car will go. If you really get the expensive brand you just have to say your destination out loud. One minute to five minutes away from your destination, it will remind you that you will be getting off soon.


STEPH BRAVO

Losing car keys can really be annoying. With my invention, people won't even need a car key. Just insert your finger into a modified key slot and presto, the car door opens!

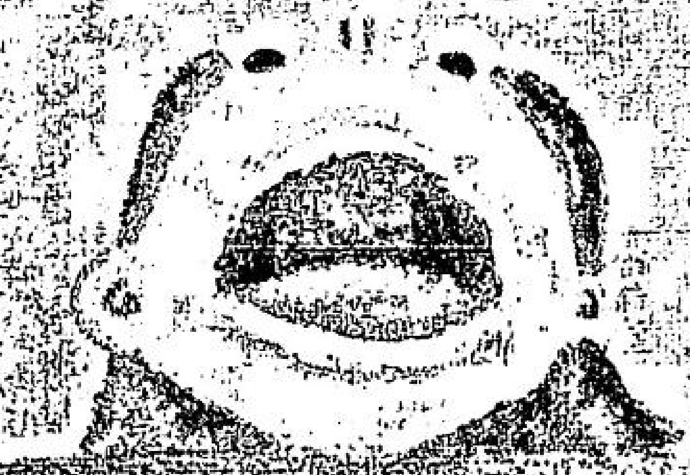
If you type or say emergency, my invention turns into a hovercraft and zooms straight to the nearest hospital.

Drivers will be less distracted with my invention and there will be less car crashes. Less car crashes will make the world a better place.

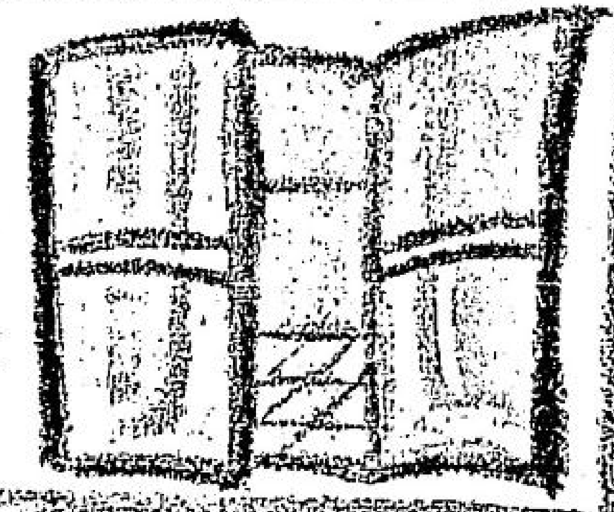
***Regina** was born in Chicago. She likes to do gymnastics, swimming, and tennis with her friends. When she grows up, she wants to become a doctor.*

Sound Familiar ?
Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!

Straight from JI Readers



You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is **ji@inquirer.com.ph** Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and your phone number. Hope to hear from you soon!



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Instead of giving all their time to cellphones and animé, Filipino children should read the Bible and do more worthwhile activities that will help other people.—**KARISSA MAY BAUTISTA**, 11, The Learning Tree Child Growth Center, and **KRISTINA BAUTISTA**, 13, Philippine Science High School

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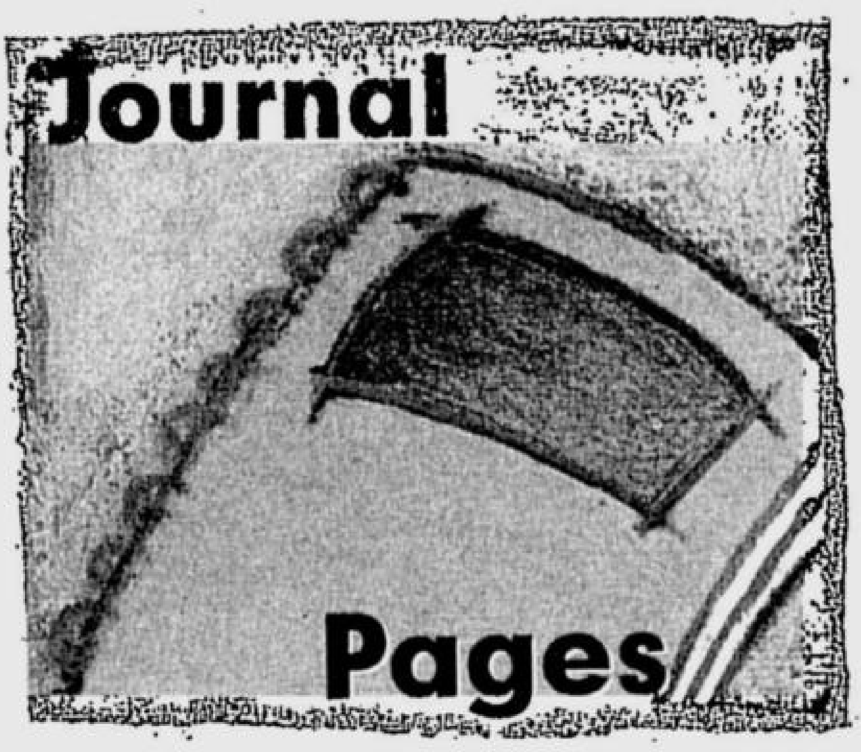
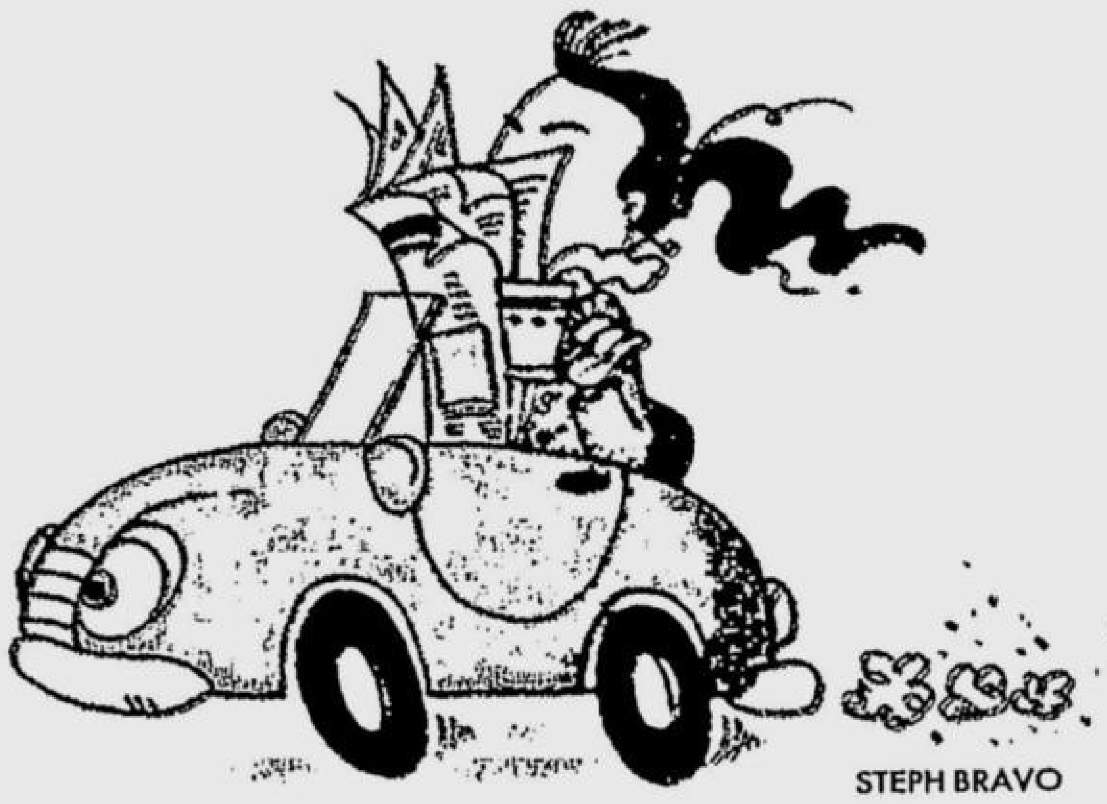


An Invention

By Regina de Luna
Grade 5
International School Manila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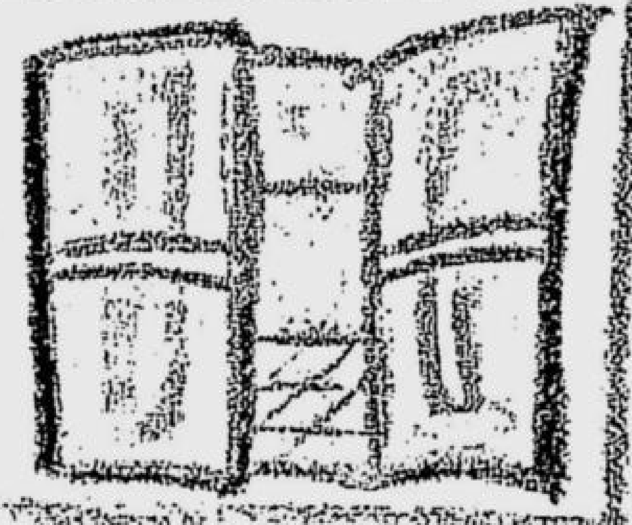

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A Horse's Prayer

BY SARAH DION

DEAR God,

I'm not here to complain, or be jealous, or sad. I'm here to tell you the things I enjoy.

Some horses are greedy, spunky, or wild. They do not understand the meaning of life. You have to enjoy life when you are still alive. Life doesn't carry on forever.

I enjoy having people on my back. Galloping in the nice cool breeze. I like to be calm, and follow the rider's instruction. Some ponies or horses just don't understand. They buck, whine, and throw people off!

***Sarah** is a Grade 5 student of International School Manila.*

Feelings

BY ALEXA VAN DER MEER

Annoying is when your little sister begs you to play.

Joy is when you find out that the newly baked delicious looking pie is just for you.

Happiness is not having to do the dishes.

Delight is when your kitten curls up on your lap.

Boredom is wasting a whole weekend wondering what to do.

Excitement is when you are three meters away from the finish line.

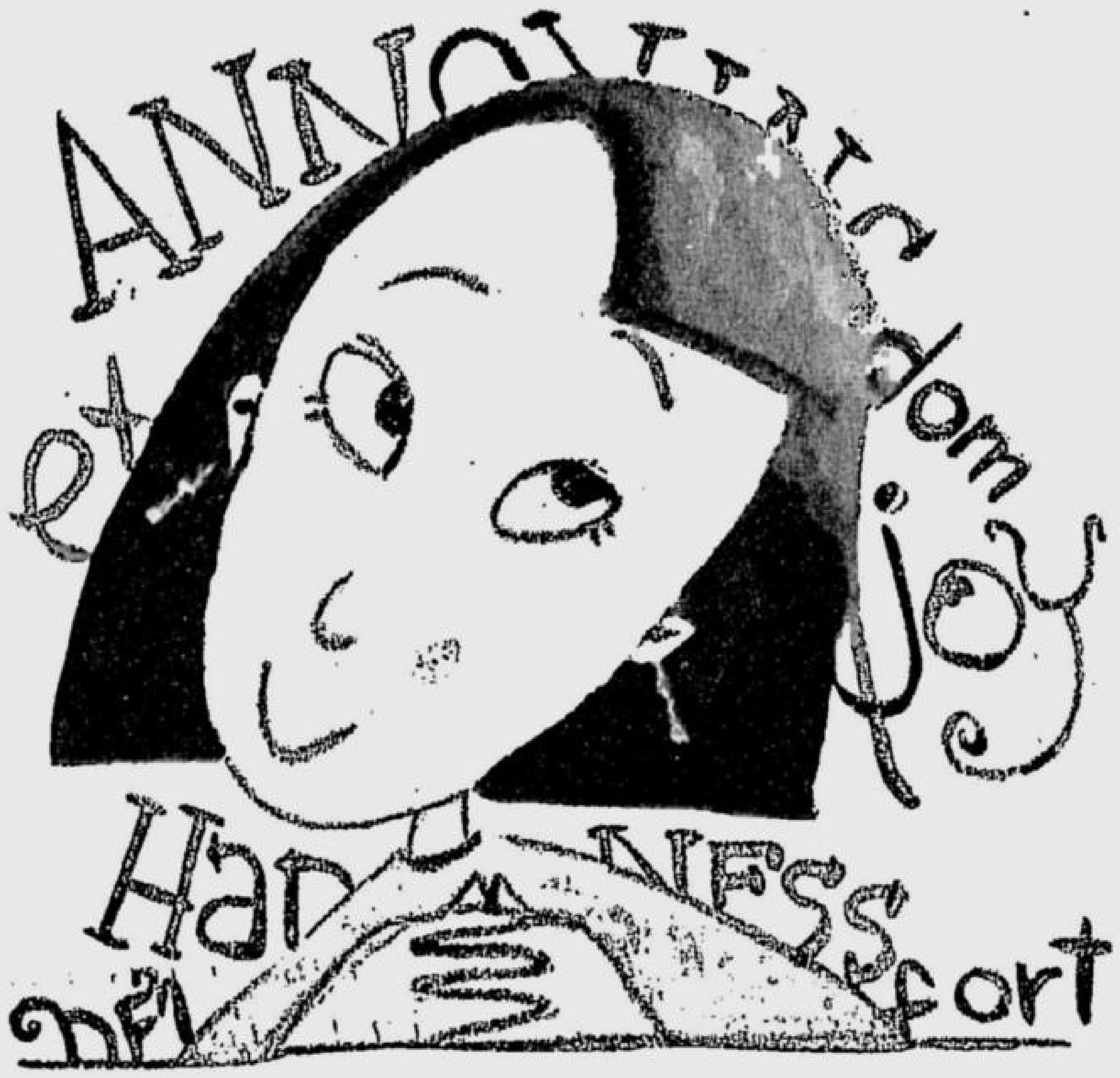
Comfort is to curl up in your very own bed.

Happiness is when you open your very first present.

Embarrassed is forgetting your line, while performing in front of the entire school.

Delight is eating the delicious cookies your mother baked.

***Alexa** is a Grade 5 student of International School Manila. She was born in the Netherlands and lived in Oman before coming to Manila. Although English is her second language, that does not stop her from writing a lot. She says, "Sometimes, I make up stories in my mind." She also enjoys math, music, and art.*



ILLUSTRATIONS

Mo

BY BECKY

It shines bri
A blue and g
Glowing on a
in the
Just hovering there
The earth's be
Nature source
The m

BY STEPH BRAVO

on

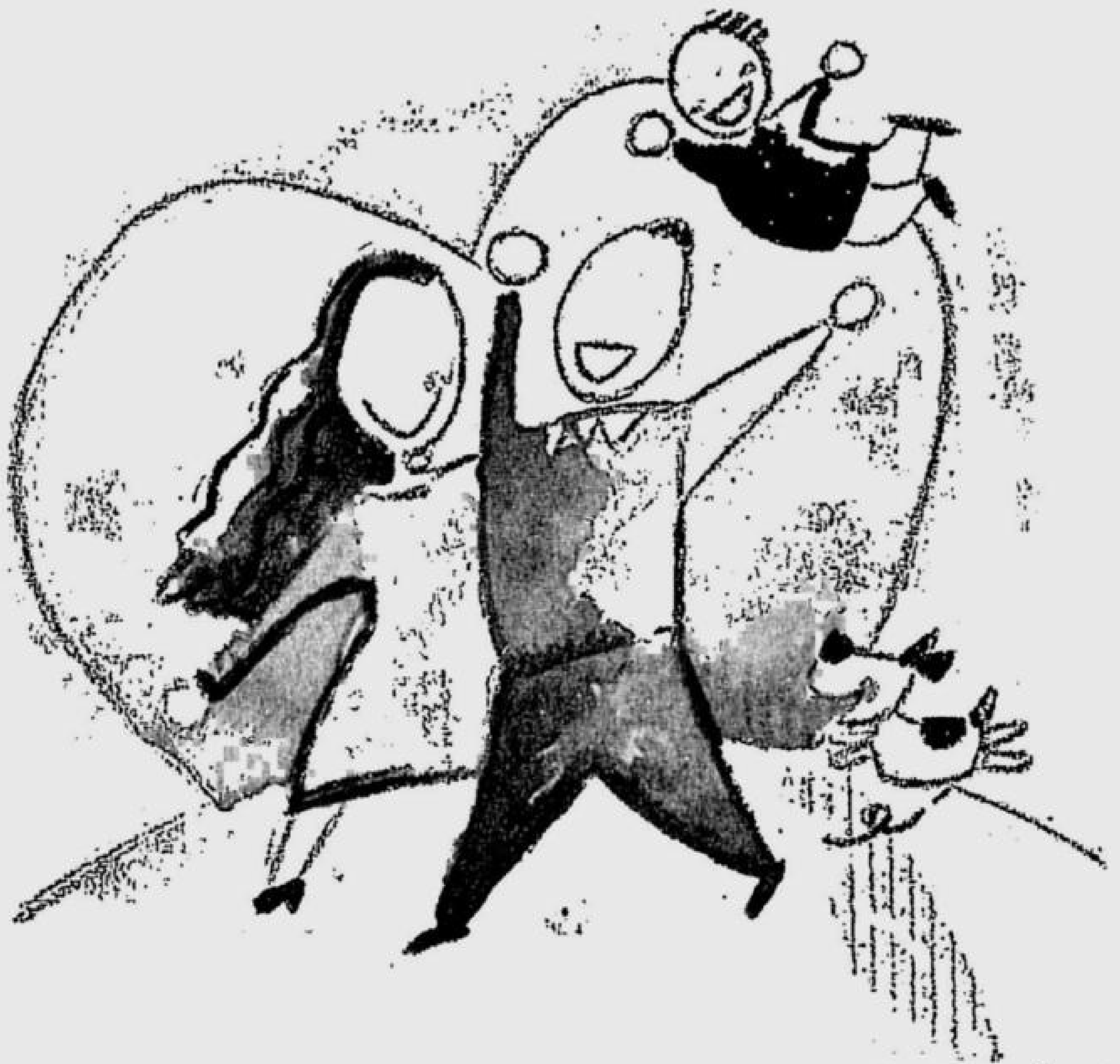
DIRAGO

ghtly over
reen planet,
crystal stream
park,
in a quilt of stars
st friend it is
of night light
oon.

Parents

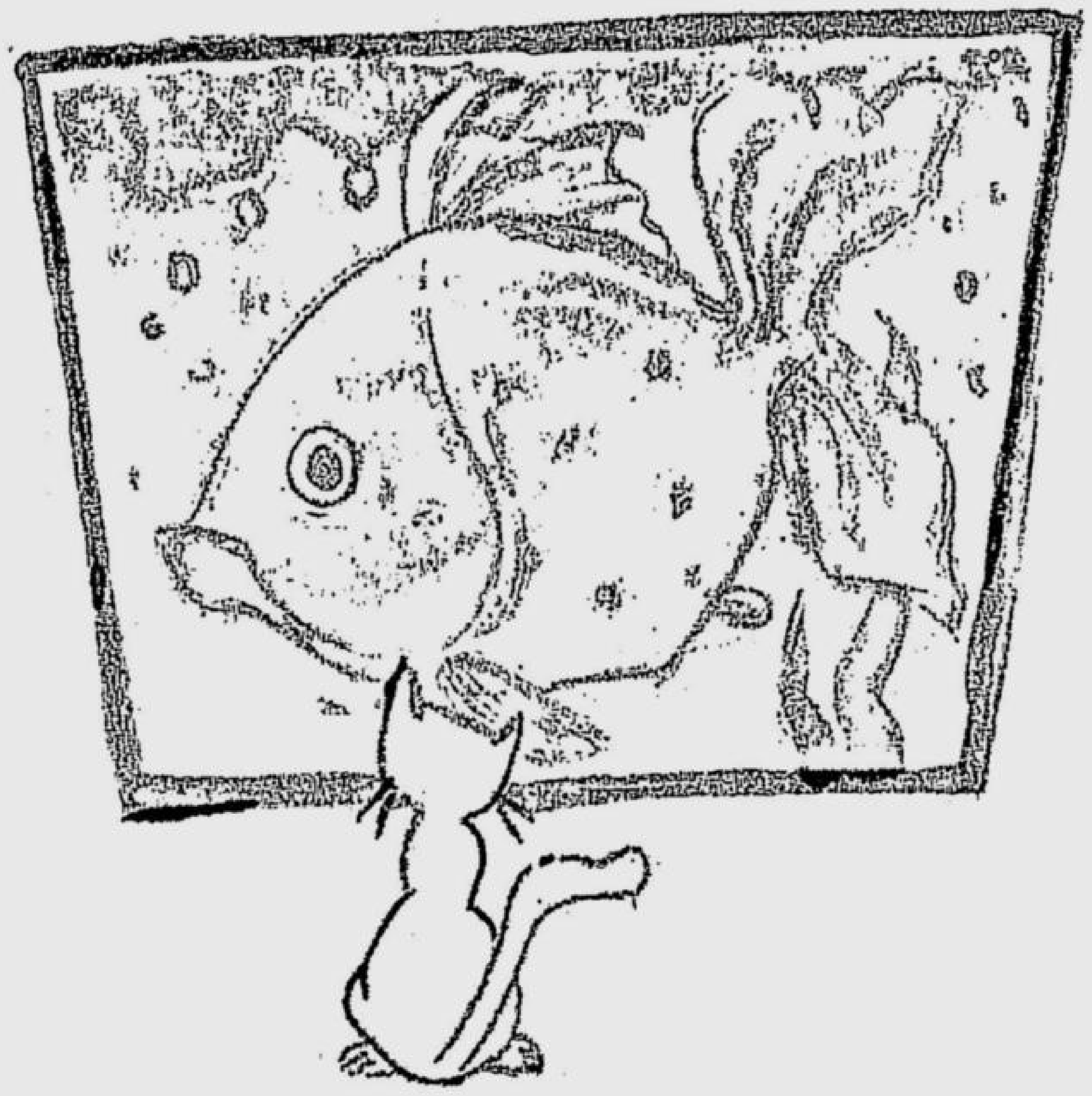
BY BECKY DIRAGO

Parents are there when you need
their warm smiles,
To lend you a helping hand,
Parents are there to guide you,
To teach you right or wrong,
Life is worth nothing without them,
They are the ones that play in the sand,
When you have nothing to do,
The ones that buy you clothes and toys,
Parents sing you lullabies and songs,
Tuck you deep into bed
They're the best in the world.



Becky *is from Australia and is a Grade 5 student of the International School Manila. Her hobbies are collecting Barbie dolls. But she also likes writing poetry, swimming, dancing and gymnastics. Her favorite author is J.K. Rowling.*

Steph *is the* INQUIRER*'s staff artist. She has a cat named Sammy and a dog she fondly calls Manny.*



How to Look at Pictures!

BY BECKY DIRAGO

First stare at the painting
Picture yourself drawing it,
How does it feel?
Feel the warmth of the red,
The cool chill of the blue,
The scary darkness of the black,
How does it feel?
Is the picture happy?
Is the picture sad?
Look at the picture upside down,
How does it look?
See the detail?
A picture can say more than words.

A Really Good Kid

Even when bullies were beating him up, Jan never once fought back

By Christine C. Rivero

IT wasn't easy for 11-year-old Jan Dennis Plata to go to school. Every day, three bullies from his class would be waiting for him. They would hit him and push him around. One day, they even spit on his lunch.

Jan didn't have enough money then to buy another meal so he didn't get a bite to eat until he got home. Until that day, Jan had not told anyone about what was happening to him in school. When his mom asked him why he waited so long to tell her, he simply replied, "I didn't want you to worry anymore."

Growing up good

"He's always been a good boy," says Jan's mom. "Give him an instruction once and he follows immediately, you won't have to tell him twice."

When she found out about the bullies, she immediately went to the guidance counselor of Jan's school. The guidance counselor then made the four kids talk. When the three students apologized, Jan says he quickly forgave them. We ask him, why didn't he ever fight back? He tells us, "My mother doesn't want me and my brother to get into fights. So that when we grow up, she says, we will be good people."

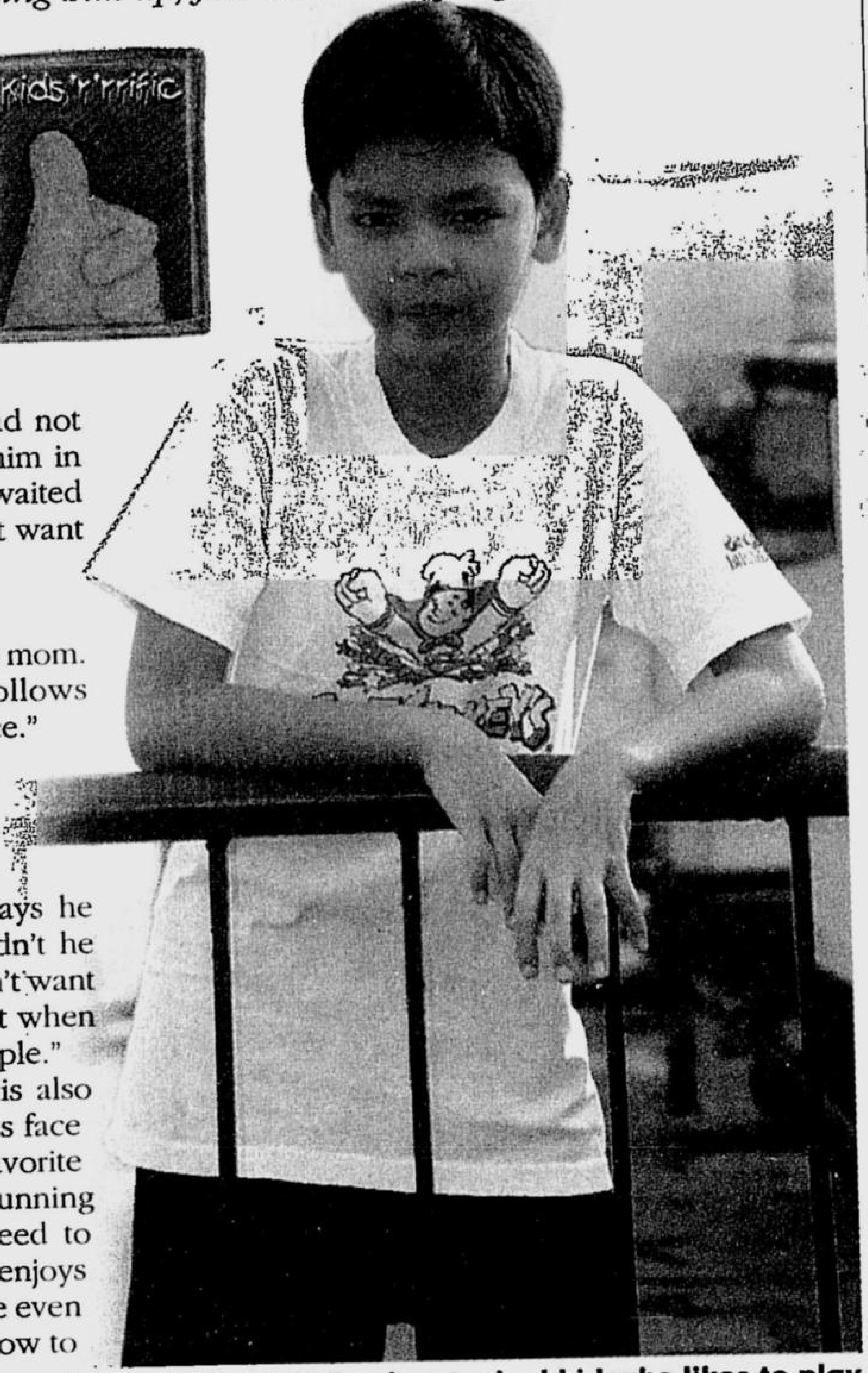
Aside from being a really nice kid, Jan is also good at a few other things—like sports! Jan's face lights up as he talks about volleyball, his favorite sport. "You don't really need to be good at running or jumping to play," he says, "you just need to practice a lot and believe in yourself." He enjoys playing chess too and sometimes, he says, he even beats his dad or his uncle who taught him how to play.

During family reunions Jan is also one of the family's "karaoke kings."

He entertains everyone with love songs, mostly hits from his fave group, Boyzone.

Years from now, Jan would like to be a mechanical engineer like his *Tito* Willie and get to travel to many different countries. "When I have my own kids," he says, "I want them to see other countries too."

On what he learned from his experience, Jan just says, "People shouldn't fight because sometimes that only makes things worse."



QUIET GUY. Jan is a typical kid who likes to play and does his best in school. MIKE ALQUINTO

Super Suggestion: A Guidance Hotline

Why not suggest to your school to have a "guidance hotline," a number students can call when it's too hard to talk about problems in person. Yoohoo schools! Do give this idea a chance.

When you are being bullied...

...the most important thing is to tell someone about it. If the bullies are from your school, tell your guidance counselor because they know best how to deal with these things. Tell your parents too. If you feel like you can't tell your guidance counselor yourself, your parents can speak to them for you. Or if things are really that hard, tell a friend at least. Ask your friend to do the talking for you. Most of all, don't keep a problem like this to yourself because there are people around you who can and want to help.

R U RRIFIC?

'Rrific kids are smart
'Rrific kids are fun
Some aren't in the honors list
But get their homework done

Somehow the world's
a better place
I know this much is true
Hey 'Rrific kid!
We know you're there
We love you 'cause you're you!

If you think you're `Rriffic' or know someone who is, fill out the nomination form below and send it to:

Junior Inquirer
'KIDS'R'RRIFIC' Page
Phil. Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces cor.
Yague & Mascardo Sts.
1231 Makati City

Chosen nominees will be featured on this page and will get a free Junior Inquirer T-shirt!

Kids'r'rrific
nomination form

I nominate:

Age:

I think she's/he's 'Rrific because:
(Here's a tip! Write a detailed description of a good deed, project or accomplishment by your nominee.)

She/he lives at

and studies at

Her/his contact number is:

Sender's Name:

Sender's Age & School:

Sender's Address:

Sender's Contact No.

Animal Planet's not just yanking the chain—'The Truth about Dogs' is a tell-all event on canine companions

Check out two premiere programs that reveal a pooch's perspective

HUMANS have shared their water dish with puppy pals for centuries and yet some of their behavior remains an mystery. What motivates a dog to chase its tail? Why do they bury everything from bathroom slippers to chicken bones? Are some dogs simply vicious carnivores in disguise or are they cuddly companions in search of affection? This February, Animal Planet provides viewers with the meaning behind the barking with the special programming event "The Truth about Dogs." Featuring programs full of canine charisma, "The Truth about Dogs" airs Saturday, Feb. 24 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. and encores the following day from 12:30 to 3 a.m.

"The Truth about Dogs" begins with a premier presentation of "Wolf in Your Living Room." This program tells of the similarities between lap dogs and their wild wolf cousins—behavior that seems curious in the cities makes perfect sense in the wilderness.

The premier of "A Dog's World" explains a pooch's perception on the world around him—from meeting and greeting fellow canines to deciphering human communication. "The Truth about Dogs" also features two episodes of the popular series "Breed All about It." Viewers get an intimate look at German shepherds and English sheep dogs when "Breed All about It" features information on each breed's history to featuring fun segments on the pets and their owners.

A LARGE black Great Dane stands looking down at a Chihuahua.

How well do you know the wolf in your living room?

1. What is a dog's dominant sense?
   a) Smell
   b) Sight
   c) Hearing

2. How much pressure can a bulldog's jaws exert?
   a) 23 kilograms
   b) 91 kilograms
   c) 181 kilograms

3. Dogs can detect the same sound as humans from. . .
   a) twice the distance
   b) four times the distance
   c) 10 times the distance

4. Dogs can locate prey by sound in less than 600th of a second.
   a) True
   b) False

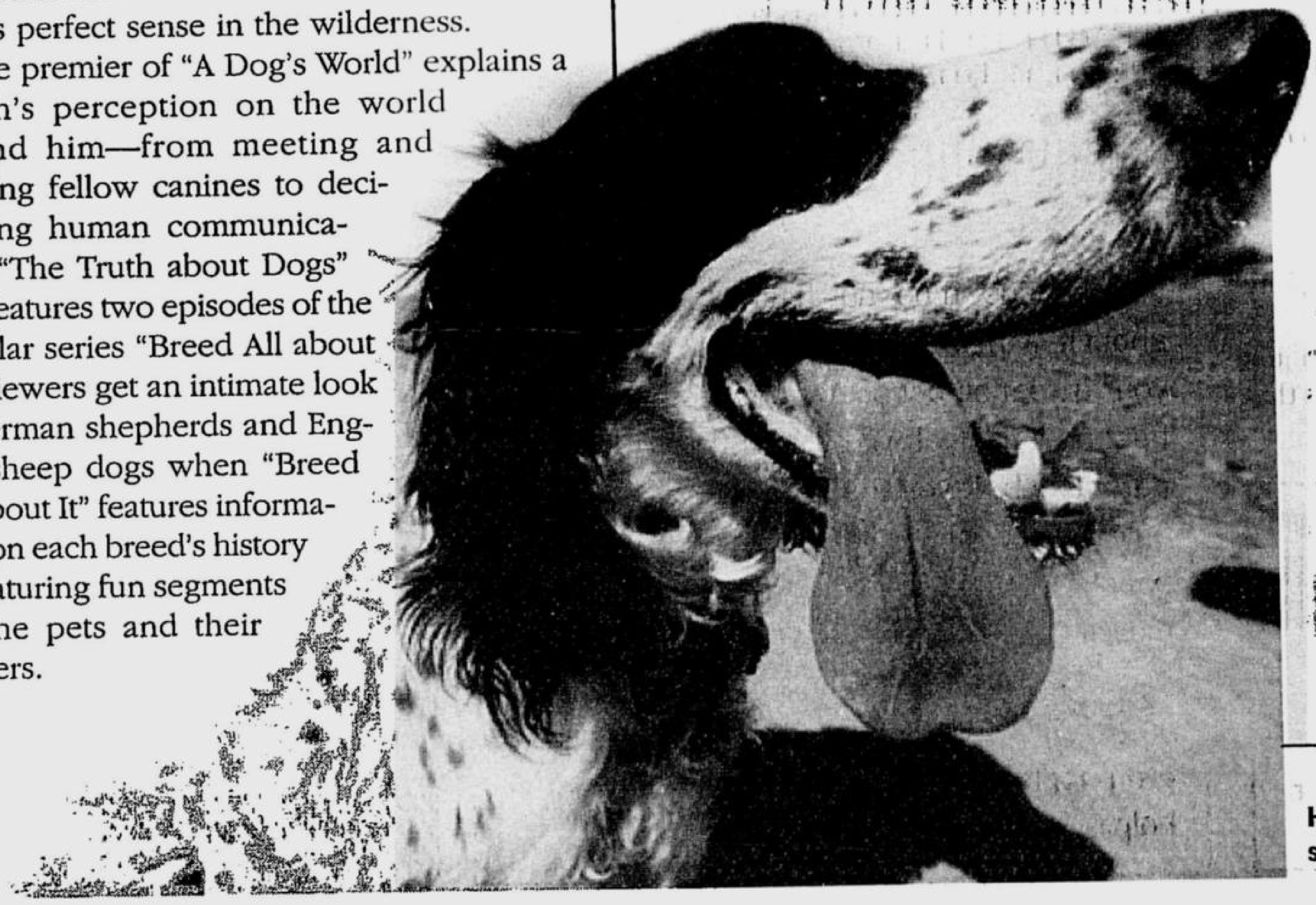
5. A dog's field of vision is. . .
   a) 20 percent wider than a human's
   b) 70 percent wider than a human's
   c) same as human's

6. While humans see color in shades of red, blue and green, dogs can only see. . .
   a) red and blue
   b) blue and green
   c) red and green

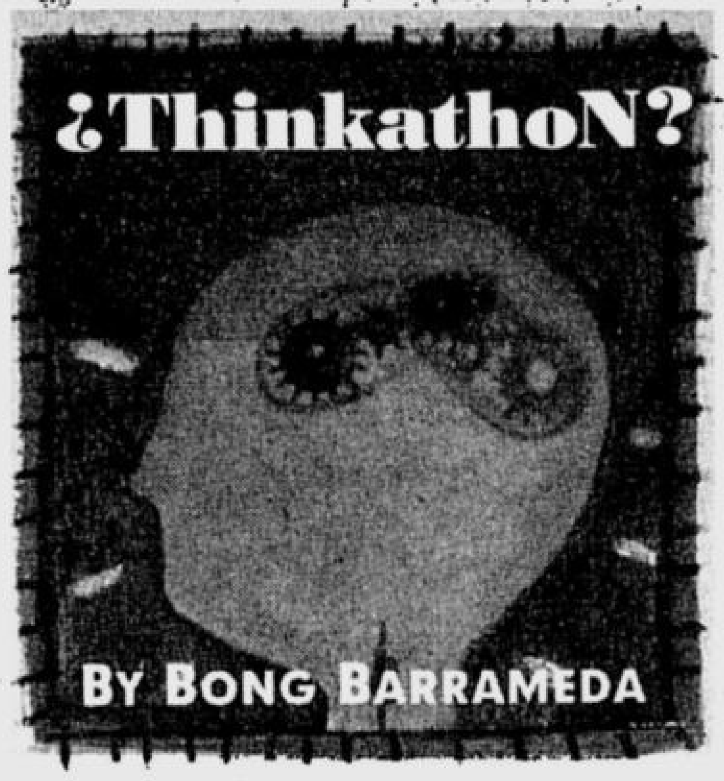
1. A greyhound, the fastest breed of dog, can run at top speed of . . .
   a) 24 km/ph
   b) 60.4 km/ph
   c) 80.4 km/ph

Answers:

1.a
2.c
3.b
4.a
5.b
6.b
7.b



HOW well do you know your pooch? Watch this show and see things from the dog's point of view.


¿ThinkathoN?
BY BONG BARRAMEDA

Get Real

BY "REAL," we mean the real names of a dozen famous comics superheroes, locally and internationally. Can you hook up the true identities with the secret ones?

_____1. Peter Parker	A. Superman
_____2. Kit Walker	B. Batman
_____3. Billy Batson	C. Spider Man
_____4. Al Simmons	D. Wonder Woman
_____5. Bruce Wayne	E. Capt. Barbell
_____6. Narda	F. Invisible Girl
_____7. Brit Reid	G. Spawn
_____8. Bruce Banner	H. The Hulk
_____9. Sue Richards	I. Captain Marvel
_____10. Kal-El (Clark Kent)	J. Green Hornet
_____11. Diana Prince	K. The Phantom
_____12. Enteng Tingting	L. Darna

Answers:

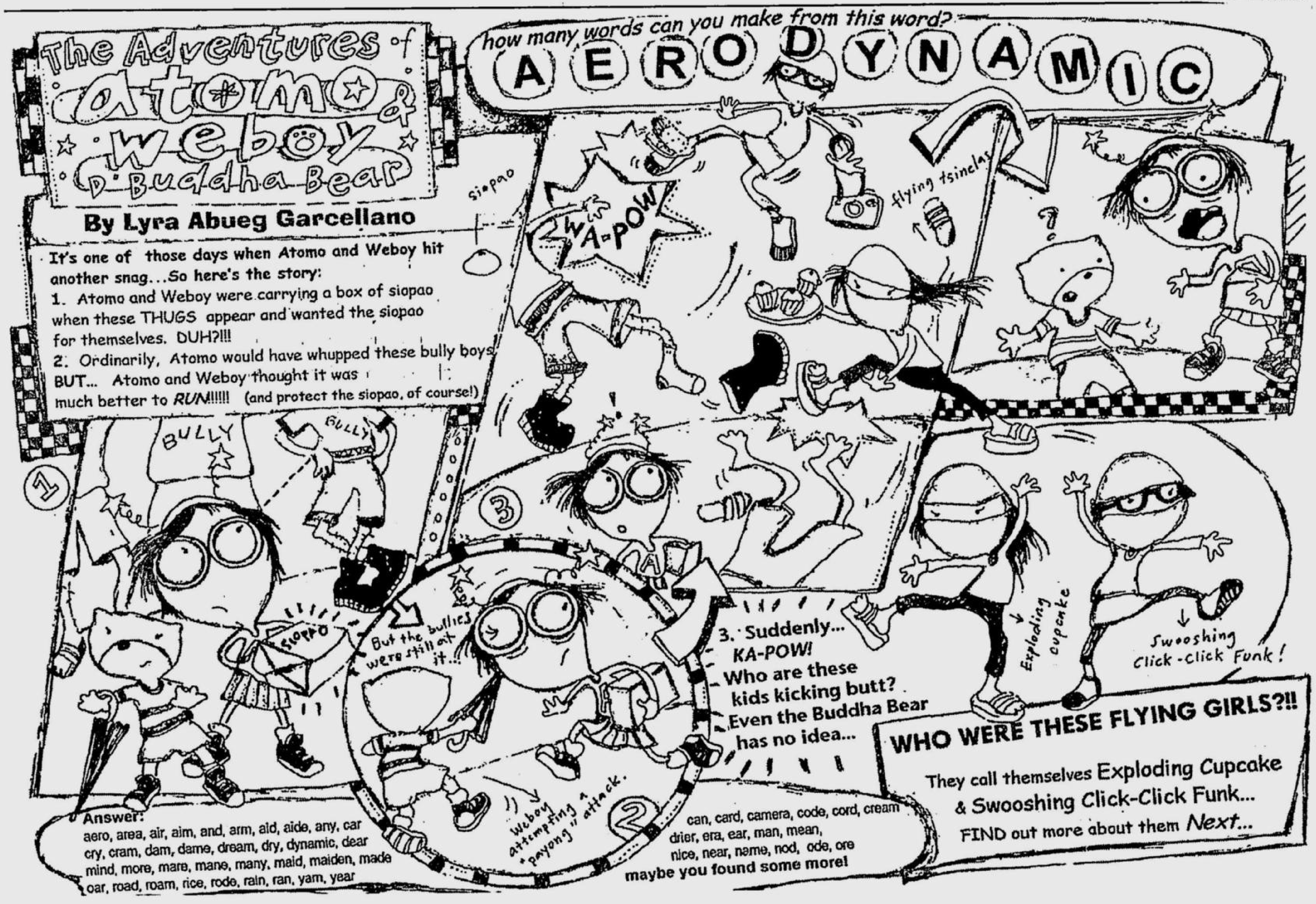
1. C
2. K
3. I
4. G
5. B
6. L
7. J
8. H
9. F
10. A
11. D
12. E

Ratings :

superbrain !
11 - 12

excellent !
9 - 10

good !
6 - 8


The Adventures of
atomo &
weboy
D' Buddha Bear
how many words can you make from this word?
AERODYNAMIC
siopao
BULLY
BULLY
SIOPAO
1
But the bullies were still at it...
Weboy attempting a "payong" attack.
2
3
WA-POW
flying tsinelas
?
Exploding cupcake
Swooshing Click-click Funk!

By Lyra Abueg Garcellano

It's one of those days when Atomo and Weboy hit another snag...So here's the story:

1. Atomo and Weboy were carrying a box of siopao when these THUGS appear and wanted the siopao for themselves. DUH?!!!

2. Ordinarily, Atomo would have whupped these bully boys BUT... Atomo and Weboy thought it was much better to *RUN*!!!!! (and protect the siopao, of course!)

3. Suddenly...
KA-POW!
Who are these kids kicking butt?
Even the Buddha Bear has no idea...

WHO WERE THESE FLYING GIRLS?!!

They call themselves Exploding Cupcake & Swooshing Click-Click Funk...
FIND out more about them *Next*...

Answer:
aero, area, air, aim, and, arm, aid, aide, any, car cry, cram, dam, dame, dream, dry, dynamic, dear mind, more, mare, mane, many, maid, maiden, made oar, road, roam, rice, rode, rain, ran, yam, year can, card, camera, code, cord, cream drier, era, ear, man, mean, nice, near, name, nod, ode, ore
maybe you found some more!

FOR or BY KIDS

Ang Fishballs

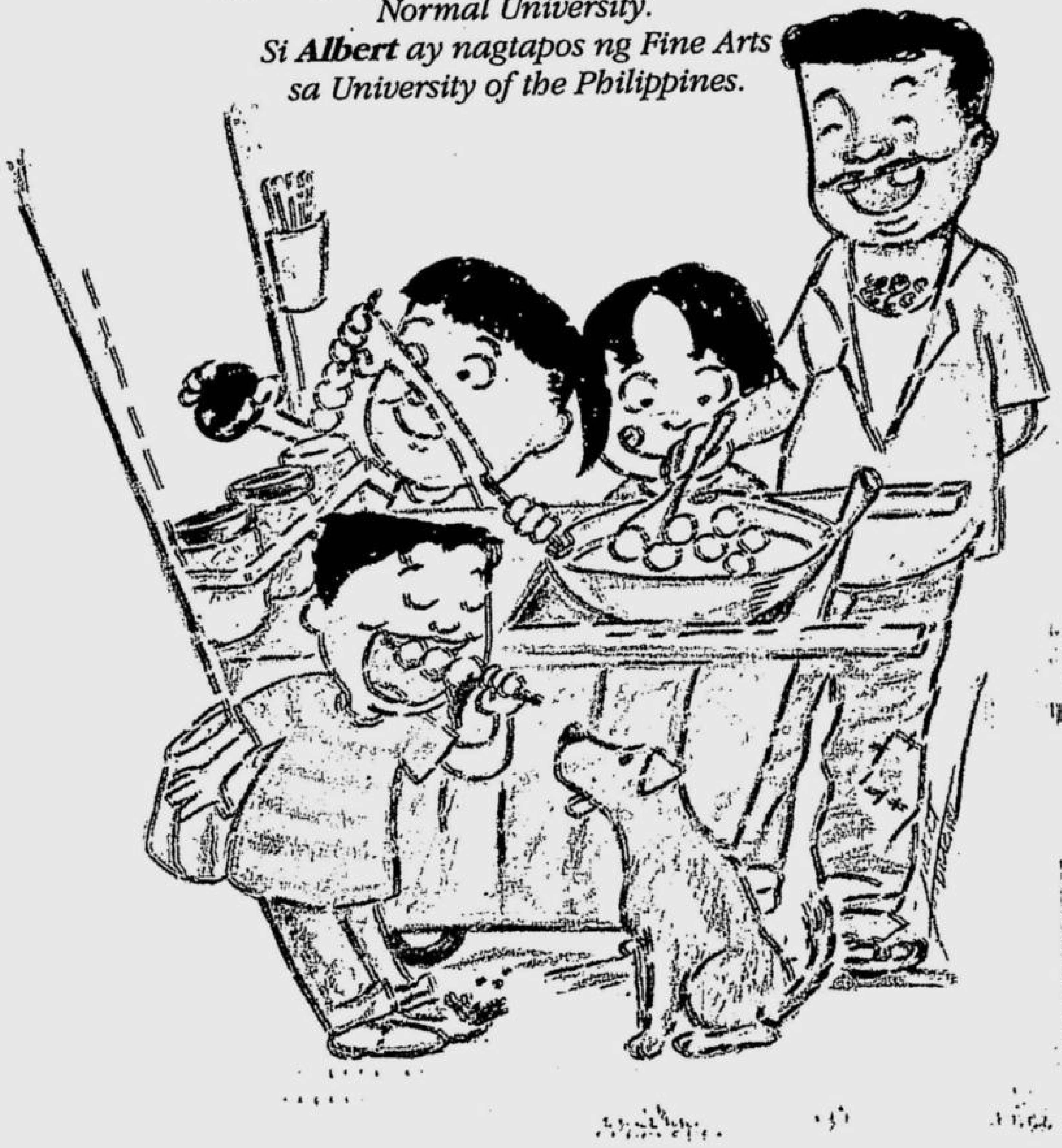
NI GENARO R. GOJO CRUZ
GUHIT NI ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

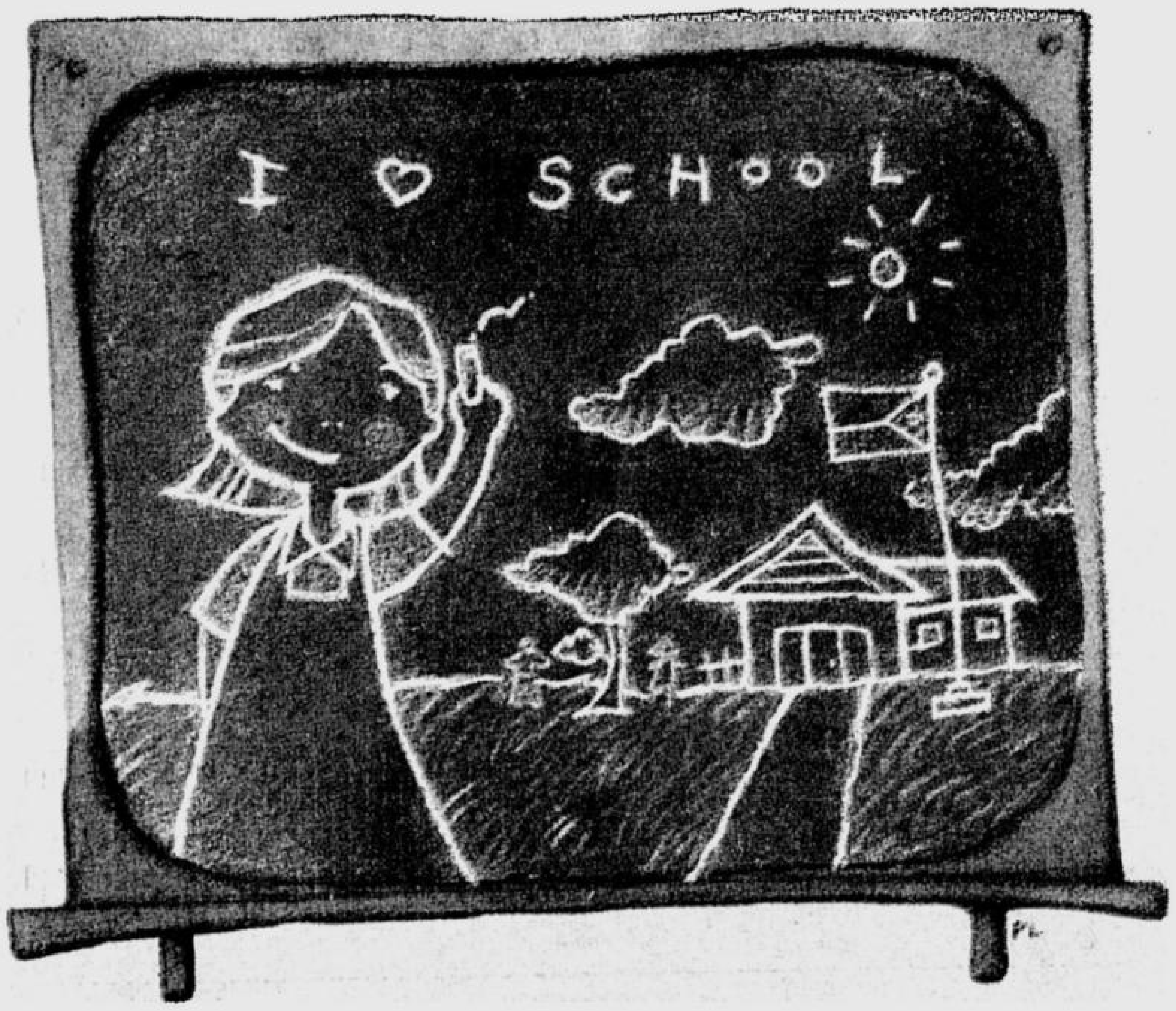
Puting-puti.
Lumulubog sa unang tambog.
Lulutang-lutang
sa mainit na mainit na mantika
kapag luto na.
Lolobo-lobo.
Papuputukin ng stik
na sabik na sabik.

Mag-ingat sa pagtusok
baka tumalon
ang *fishballs* na malilintog.
At baka maitim na kawali
ay tumaob.

At kapag husto na ang naitusok
na *fishballs*,
Isasaw-saw sa matamis
na *sauce*.

Si ***Genaro*** *ay dating Literary editor ng The Torch Publications, ang pahayagang pang-kampus ng Philippine Normal University.*
Si ***Albert*** *ay nagtapos ng Fine Arts sa University of the Philippines.*





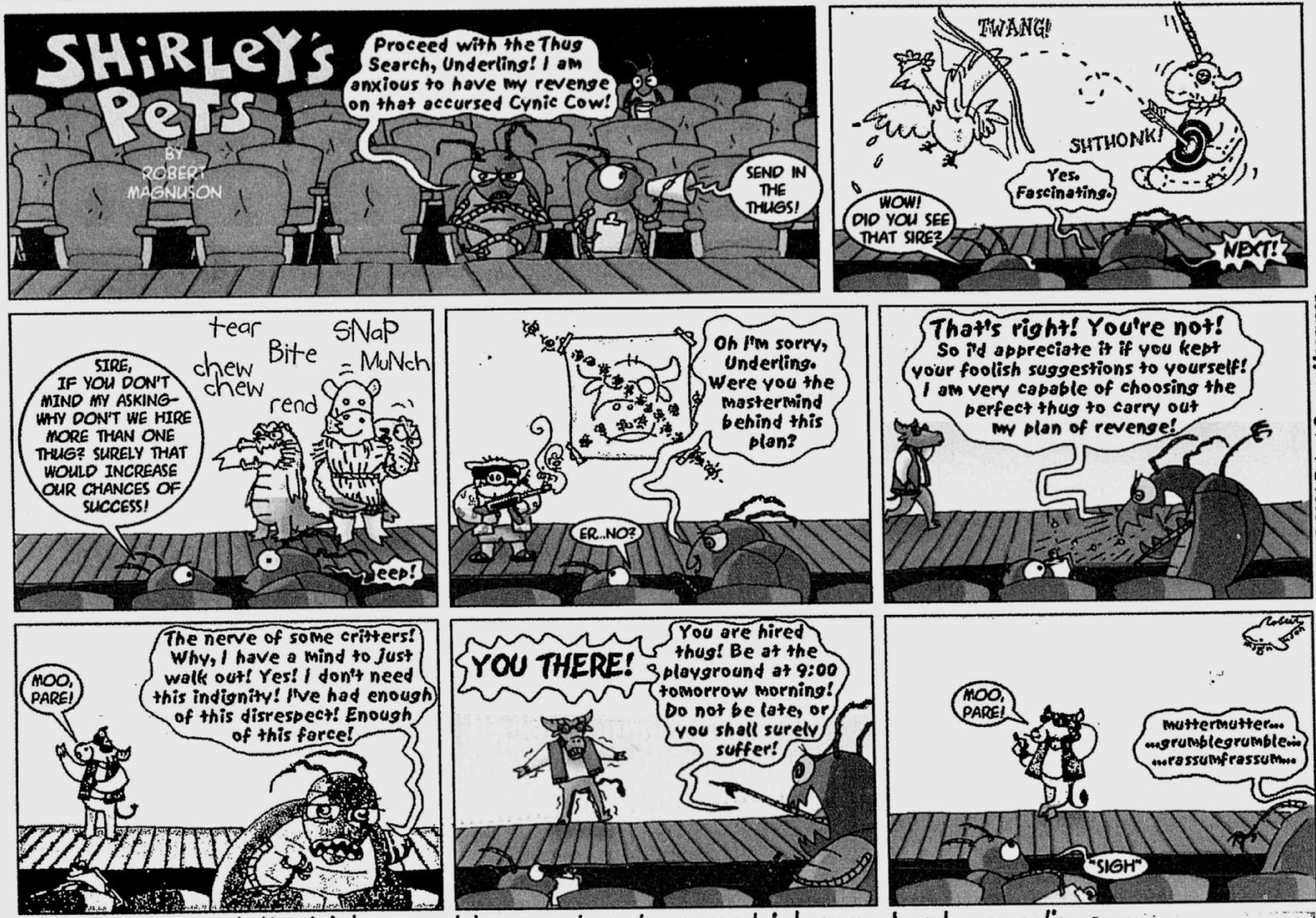
School

BY DANICA PEREZ
ILLUSTRATION BY PAOLO LIM

I love school,
Because it's very cool
You'll meet some new
classmates. Then you
become playmates.

Then the bell rings
and class is dismissed.
I can't wait
to tell my mom and dad
about our school
because it is very cool.

Danica*, 10, lives in Quezon City.*
Paolo *is a freelance artist and a member of Ang Ilustrador ng Kabataan (Ang Ink).*


SHIRLEY'S PETS
BY ROBERT MAGNUSON
Proceed with the Thug Search, Underling! I am anxious to have my revenge on that accursed Cynic Cow!
SEND IN THE THUGS!
TWANG!
SHTHONK!
WOW! DID YOU SEE THAT SIRE?
Yes. Fascinating.
NEXT!
SIRE, IF YOU DON'T MIND MY ASKING— WHY DON'T WE HIRE MORE THAN ONE THUG? SURELY THAT WOULD INCREASE OUR CHANCES OF SUCCESS!
tear
SNaP
Bite
chew chew
MuNch
rend
eep!
Oh I'm sorry, Underling. Were you the mastermind behind this plan?
ER...NO?
That's right! You're not! So I'd appreciate it if you kept your foolish suggestions to yourself! I am very capable of choosing the perfect thug to carry out my plan of revenge!
MOO, PARE!
The nerve of some critters! Why, I have a mind to just walk out! Yes! I don't need this indignity! I've had enough of this disrespect! Enough of this farce!
YOU THERE!
You are hired thug! Be at the playground at 9:00 tomorrow morning! Do not be late, or you shall surely suffer!
MOO, PARE!
muttermutter... ...grumblegrumble... ...rassumfrassum...
"SIGH"

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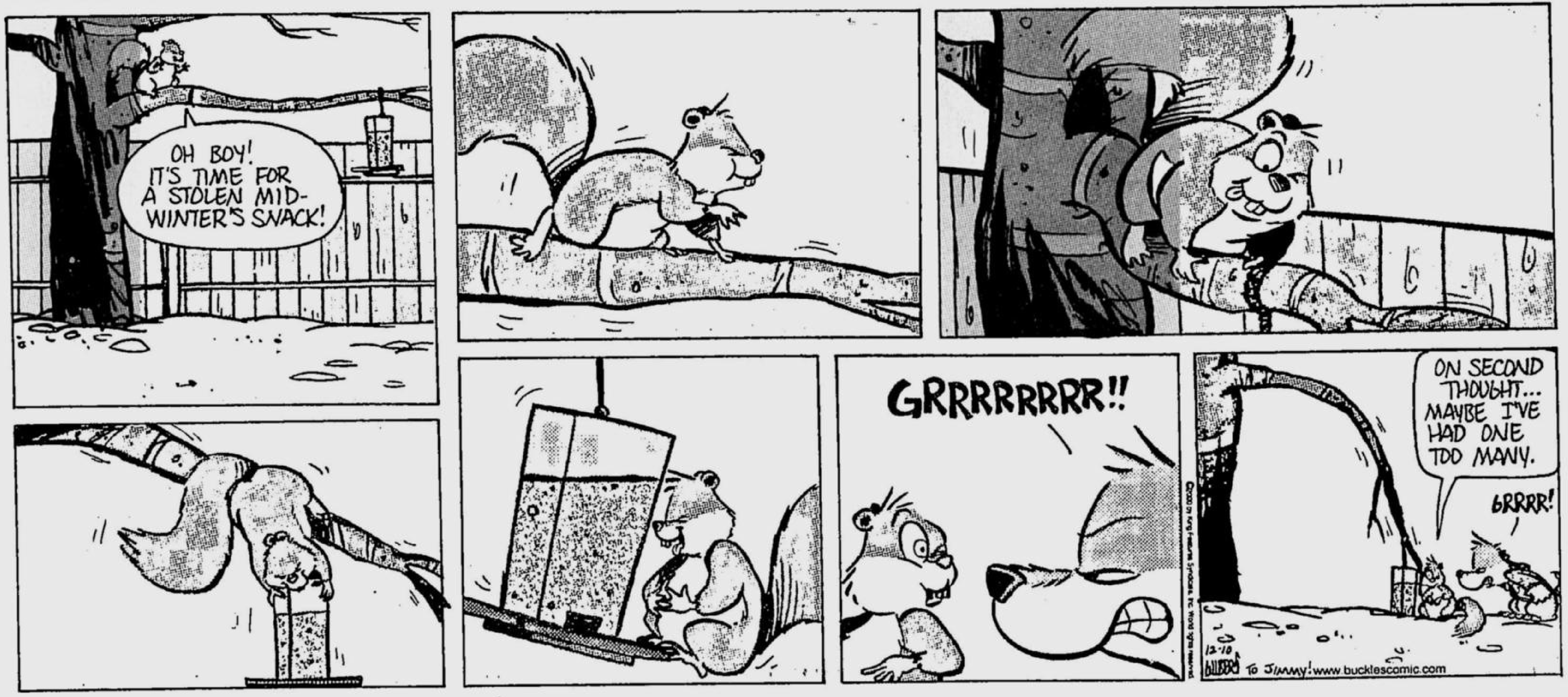
visit shirley and her pets at www.shirleyspets.cheesedip.com

BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT


OH BOY! IT'S TIME FOR A STOLEN MID-WINTER'S SNACK!
GRRRRRRRR!!
ON SECOND THOUGHT... MAYBE I'VE HAD ONE TOO MANY.
GRRRR!
12-10
GILBERT TO JIMMY! www.bucklescomic.com